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SADDAM HUSSEIN

NEWS ANALYSIS

Iraq Got the Green Light from U.S., Another Kurdish Town Reportedly Fallen

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Commenting on the recent atrocity by the Baghdad regime in Northern Iraq, a top lawmaker in Tehran said: "The green light" was given to Iraq by the United States for the attack on the Kurdish community.

Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri yesterday said that "undoubtedly Iraq acted after an accord with the United States because without such a coordination, Baghdad could not massacre its innocent people."

Nateq-Nouri, addressing an



open session of the Majlis yesterday, said that "such an attitude from Washington shows American diplomats are confused regarding the regime in Iraq."

A report from Baghdad said the last remaining stronghold of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in Northern Iraq came under attack yesterday after Iraqi troops and their Kurdish allies seized the main city in the region from PUK fighters.

The town of Sulaymaniyah, where PUK Leader Jalal Talabani has taken refuge following Satur-

day's fall of the city of Arbil to Iraqi forces, came under heavy shelling yesterday, U.N. officials said.

"There are bombardments in Sulaymaniyah," some 200 kilometers southeast of Arbil, which was captured by Iraqi tanks and guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Saturday, a U.N. official here said.

He did not say whether Iraqi troops or the KDP was responsible for the shelling of Sulaymaniyah. But an IRNA report yesterday said

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day's fall of the city of Arbil to Iraqi forces, came under heavy shelling yesterday, U.N. officials said.

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for the shelling of Sulaymaniyah.

But an IRNA report yesterday said

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Muslim Leader in Manila for Peace Pact Signing

MANILA (AFP) - Muslim leader Nur Misuari arrived here yesterday from Indonesia to sign a peace pact today with the Philippine government ending a 24-year Islamic insurgency that has left 120,000 people dead in the country's south, officials said.

Misuari, chairman of the autonomy-seeking Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), was greeted by some 500 Filipino Muslims waiting in drizzling rain to welcome him, waving the red and yellow banner of the MNLF.

The 55-year-old former university professor, wearing a business suit and a Muslim hat, raised a clenched fist and shouted "Allah Is Great."

About 30 soldiers from the army's special forces and MNLF regulars threw a tight security cordon around him. MNLF and military sources had earlier expressed fears that Islamic extremists could harm Misuari to sabotage the talks.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was on the same plane, along with officials of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). They will witness the signing at 9:00 a.m. (11:00 GMT) today at the presidential palace.

Indonesia chaired an OIC committee that supervised the three-year-long peace talks.

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Netanyahu-Arafat Meeting Soon

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave his clearest indication yet yesterday that he would meet Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat soon, saying "all kinds of developments" were taking place that opened the door for such an encounter.

"A meeting with Arafat will take place when developments permit, and in fact there are currently all sorts of developments underway," he said in an interview on Israeli army radio.

Netanyahu gave no firm date but after weeks of refusing to commit himself to a face-to-face encounter with Arafat, it was his clearest statement to date that he intends to meet the Palestinian leader soon.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also hinted clearly at a quick summit between the two men.

"I hope very much that in the coming days there will be meetings between myself and the prime minister with the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and that we will find ways to ease tensions and improve our relations," he said in a radio interview.

Israeli public radio quoted senior officials in Netanyahu's office as saying the meeting could take place this week at the Erez crossing from the Palestinian-controlled Gaza Strip into Israel.

Palestinian Leaders Attend Protest Mass

raeli Foreign Minister David Levy.

"If Israel and the Palestinians reach an agreement on a Hebron pullout and that accord is not implemented, it will not be enough," he said.

"Progress must be made on the ground. Progress is not in words alone," Mussa said.

See Page 13

Mussa Links Economic Conference to Hebron Pullout

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT - Foreign Minister Amr Mussa said yesterday that Egypt would not convene a regional economic conference set for November in Cairo unless Israel carried out its delayed withdrawal from Hebron.

Mussa said the third Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference was discussed in a meeting here earlier yesterday between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and President Hosni Mubarak.

"It is unimaginable to conceive that the economic conference will take place before a withdrawal from Hebron," Mussa told a joint news conference with visiting Is-

Rafsanjani Starts African Tour Today

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is to start his six-nation African tour today which will take him to Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa, according to a release from the President's Office.

A high ranking politico-economic delegation will accompany Rafsanjani on his African tour, the first to be made by the President since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The tour is considered to be of great significance in political and economic circles given the priority Iran's foreign policy places on expansion of ties with African countries, the release said.

The main topics on the agenda as Rafsanjani meets with the leaders of the six African states will not be just issues of mutual interest, regional and international issues, but will deal with ways to expand economic cooperation, cooperation in international organizations, and the execution of agreements formerly reached by Iran with those countries.

Leader and President Opposed to Amending Constitution



NATEQ-NOURI

BY M. SERJOIE

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Natoq-Nouri yesterday said, "The Constitution should not be amended under any circumstances."

At a parliamentary press conference the Speaker stated that: "Any changes in the Constitution will weaken its basic principles. President Rafsanjani, recently told me that he is strongly opposed to any changes to the Constitution."

Natoq-Nouri, a high-ranking member of the Jame-e Rouhaniye-Mobarez (JRM), said: "Leader of Islamic Revolution, in a meeting with members of the Fifth Majlis, clearly stated that after President Rafsanjani's term is over, someone else will assume the post."

The Speaker said he believed that the Leader's statement should leave no room for anymore speculations in this regard. "It would be wrong to pursue the matter any further since the Leader of Revolution has clearly expressed his opinion," he said.

Natoq-Nouri was asked what would happen if the Expediency Council recommends that,

future under emergency conditions, President Rafsanjani's term of office be extended? He responded: "There is no emergency, and the Expediency Council cannot recommend such a measure."

Left Wing Concerned Over Future of Presidency

In another press conference at the Majlis yesterday, the people's



QOMI

representative from Varamin said: "Mr. Hashemi has eight years of experience in constructive activities, and the nation's construction efforts will suffer when he leaves office."

Mohammad Qomi stated that, "Some have proposed amending the Constitution to enable Mr. Rafsanjani to be elected for a third term."

He added that there is also the

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SUMMARY



Clinton Continues Attacks on Dole

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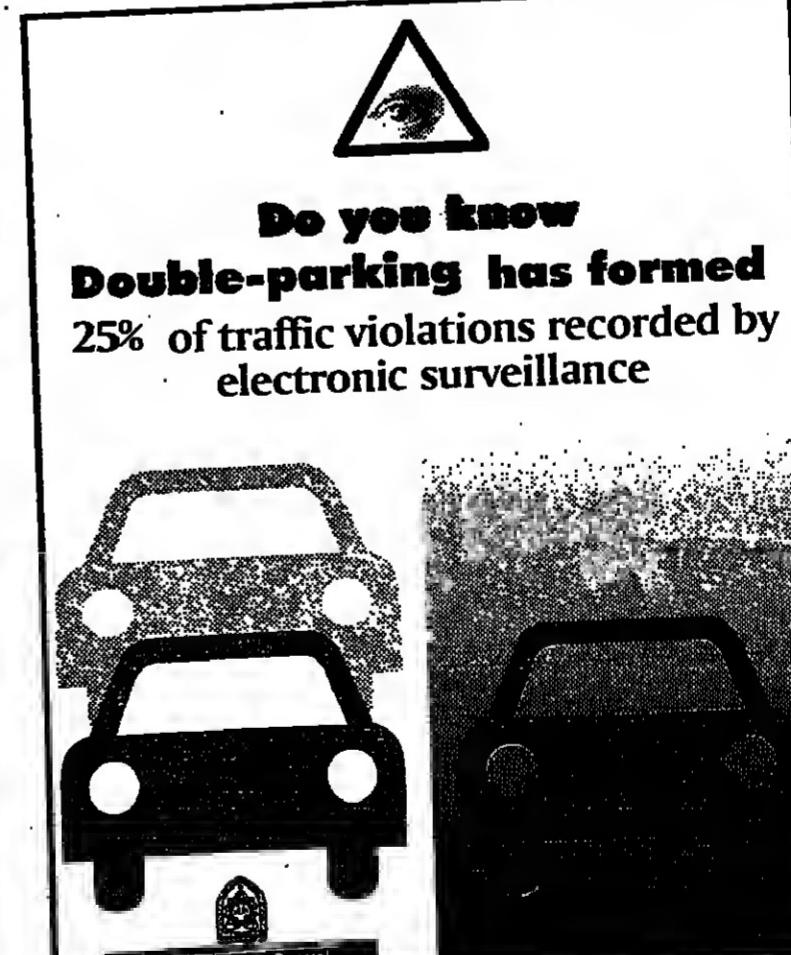
SDA Rally Near Sarajevo

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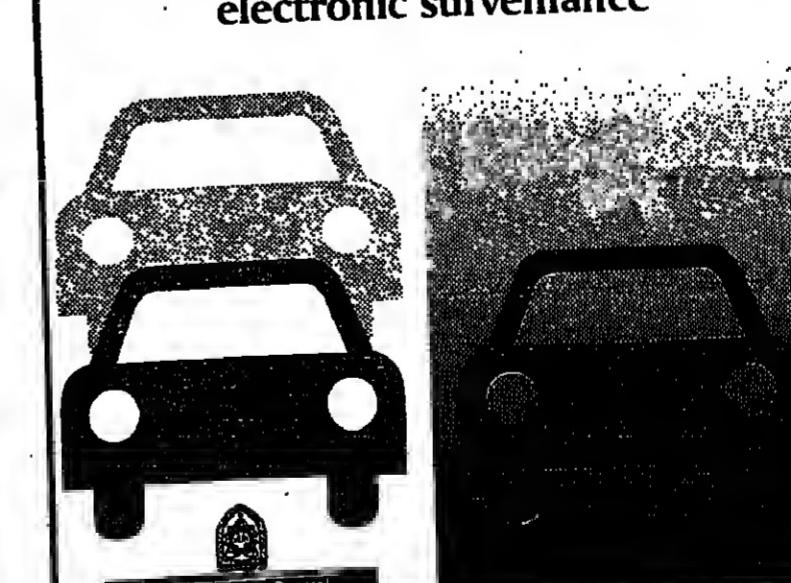


Galimberti, First Week Winner at SAT 96

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Do you know Double-parking has formed 25% of traffic violations recorded by electronic surveillance



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EDITORIAL

Child Abuse, an Alarming Phenomenon

A five-day international conference aimed at drawing up a global action plan to control child sexual abuse, pedophilia and child pornography concluded Saturday with a note of disappointment expressed by many participants.

Observers believe that the issue is very complicated and has its roots in the very structure of the world's social fiber.

Sexual exploitation of minors is a worldwide problem and poverty is the main cause. In some countries, such as Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Nepal human beings have become a commodity which can be bought and sold.

Despite the sharp increase in economic growth of many countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is growing wider and wider.

A recent U.N. report rightly maintained that despite progress in many developing nations, the world's poorest people are 'not enjoying the fruits' of the last few decades of economic prosperity.

Another report said while in the past 50 years the world's wealth has multiplied sevenfold, three-quarters of it is in the hands of just 20 percent of the world's population. The poor own only 1.4 percent of the world's wealth, down from 2.3 percent in 1952.

These statistics are startling, and it is obvious that in the light of these facts a five-day conference like the one held in Stockholm could only serve as a starting point for such a widespread and global social malady.

UNICEF estimates that one million children a year are forced into child prostitution.

As long as poverty and disparity of wealth exist in the world, we should not expect things to improve. Observers rightly point out a common complaint regarding the final declaration of the Stockholm Conference and say due attention was not paid to the impact of poverty on child sexual abuse phenomenon.

True, the delegates had adopted a non-binding declaration and action plan which called for the prevention, protection and rehabilitation of victims, and proposed stiffer legislation and increased cooperation.

But history tells us that 'stiffer legislation' alone can not solve any problem. What we need to do is to awaken the conscience of the common people worldwide through a specific plan implemented by using the existing scientific technology.

At present, the satellite is the best available medium for carrying the message across the world simultaneously. Unfortunately, its misuse by certain countries, both in the West and the East, forced some countries, including Iran, to ban this mass communication tool.

We should explore the possibility of properly using satellite networks for this and other worthwhile endeavors.

Finally, we have to find a mechanism to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. The United Nations can be the best platform where economists and social experts can search and find the best possible guidelines to be followed by all countries.

The present condition of the children of the poor, and the abuses they suffer, are very alarming. A sincere and strong will among the world's governments is needed to eradicate this menace.

Speaker Denounces German Court Decision Against Iran

IRAN NEWS PARLIAMENTARY DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri here yesterday strongly criticized the German government for allowing a former Iranian president to testify in a trial on the 1992 murder of four Kurdish leaders in Berlin.

Addressing the open session of the Majlis, he said angrily: "Do you understand what you are doing? In hearing false testimony from a deposed president accused of hijacking a plane you are supporting terrorism." "This is an insult to Iranian people," he added.

A cousin in Berlin, suspecting Iranian leaders of involvement in the murder of the four Iranian Kurdish opposition figures, invited Abolhassan Banisadr to testify during the trial of an Iranian and four Lebanese charged with carrying out the killings in September 1992.

Rafsanjani Congratulates Malaysia on National Day

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday sent a message of felicitation to Malaysian Monarch Tuanku Ja'afar Inbi al-Marhum Tuanku Abdulrahman and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on the occasion of the National Day of Malaysia.

President Rafsanjani, in his message to the Malaysian monarch and prime minister, has expressed hope that relations between Iran and Malaysia would continue to broaden in political, cultural and economic areas.

President Rafsanjani, in another message Saturday to Libyan President Colonel Muammar Qaddafi, congratulated him on the occasion of Libya's Revolution Day, September 1st.

He hoped that pressure on Libya by the international arrogance would shortly be lifted, IRNA reported.

German authorities have already issued a warrant for the arrest of Iran's Intelligence Minister Ali Falahian.

"The German authorities are behaving like an ostrich. On the one hand they organize a campaign against the Iranian people, and on the other, they say they favor dialogue with Iran," Nateq-Nouri said.

"We want a dialogue with you but that doesn't mean we need you," he added, charging that European countries "have become a haven for terrorists who launched deadly attacks against Iranian leaders."

Nateq-Nouri expressed hope that Germany will act more wisely and change its attitude towards the dignified nation of Iran. Condemning the d'Amato Bill, the Majlis Speaker said the plan disgraced the U.S., adding it was so unwise that brought honor for Iran

and isolation for Washington.

As part of their election campaigns and in a bid to divert the public opinion from domestic problems, American statesmen have taken position against Iran, he said regarding this as a disgrace for the Americans.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq-Nouri added that Clinton's tenure brought nothing for the U.S. but scandal and disgrace.

Further in his address he described the Middle East peace plan as a move aimed at deceiving the Arab states. Now the Arabs themselves have come to realize that the plan was nothing but trampling on the rights of the Palestinian people. Turning to the Government's Week (August 23-29), the Majlis Speaker praised performance of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's Cabinet saying the enthusiastic presence of people in the scene was a token of gratitude



to the government and officials of the system, IRNA reported.

He reminded that the impacts of what has been carried out by Rafsanjani's administration will be realized in future and only then one could make a judgment on the great achievements.

Afghan Official Expresses Gratitude for Iran Liberal Aids

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Abdulrahim Ghafurzai in Kabul Saturday expressed for the Islamic Republic Iran's liberal aids.

He met Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Communications, Morteza Sarmadi, telling the Iranian envoy that the Afghan government looked forward to broadening relations with Iran in all areas.

Sarmadi responded by hoping that the Afghan government would manage to keep talks with rival groups from collapsing so that the present crisis would be resolved, IRNA reported.

Sarmadi also referred to the progress made by a joint economic commission of the two countries and observed that Iran would be more than willing to offer her post-war rehabilitation experience to neighboring Afghanistan.

Latest Developments in Northern Iraq Discussed



SANA'I



AS-SAADUN

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait Gholam-Ali Sana'i and Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly Ahmad Abd al-Aziz al-Saudun in a meeting yesterday discussed the latest developments in Northern Iraq as well as bilateral ties.

The two officials also exchanged views on coordinating the activities of the two countries' parliamentary and friendship

groups.

In a separate meeting, Sana'i and the Kuwaiti Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Ahmad Khaled al-Kolaib, talked about bilateral relations and joint cooperation in making use of the two countries' skilled manpower, according to IRNA.

Formation of a joint labor committee was another topic brought up by the two officials.

Rafsanjani Receives the New Malaysian, Philippine Ambassadors

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The new Philippine and Malaysian ambassadors to Iran submitted their credentials to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in separate meetings here Sunday, IRNA reported.

Philippine Ambassador Baron P. Alonto, conveyed Filipino President Fidel Ramos's warm and sincere greetings to Rafsanjani and thanked the Iranian President for Iran's efforts to restore peace in the Philippines.

Alonto said that Philippine officials attached special significance to deepening and expanding their country's ties with Iran.

The President welcomed expansion of bilateral ties in all areas. He also said he was satisfied with the efforts of the Manila government to see to the situation of Muslims in southern parts of the Philippines and said Iran was ready to invest in those Muslim-populated areas.

In a separate meeting, new Malaysian Ambassador Mohamed Khalid bin Ali Hassan conveyed the Malaysian king's greetings to the Iranian nation and government.



Photo by Abdi



Photo by Abdi

دستوری ۱۵۰

RAVI WRITES

Malaysian Ambassador Khalis Hosts Independence Day Reception

Malaysian Ambassador Mohamad Khalis surprised a large number of his guests when he served tasty Malaysian food at the Esteghlal Hotel on Saturday evening.

The occasion was the anniversary of Malaysian Independence, and the chief guest was Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Protocol Head Bahman Husseinpour, Director General Mohammad Ganjidoust and Ministry of Commerce Director General Mahmoudreza Fallah were also among other Iranian and foreign diplomats.



Staff of the Malaysian Embassy along with Ambassador Khalis
(Photo by ABO)

Malaysian Ambassador Khalis, his deputies Abdul Majid bin Rajab, Mohamad Ouzi bin Haji Dahman, Mohamad Noh and Mohamad Hassan were all wearing their country's traditional dress with songkok (cap), Bajumelayu (long coat) and sampin (a piece of cloth Malaysians wrap around the middle part of their body).

The food was prepared by the wives of Malaysian diplomats including the wife of Ambassador Khalis, Sharifah Jaafar. Mrs. Bashah, wife of Counselor Majid told IRAN NEWS: "It took two days for us to cook all the food."

"Well, we thought it's better if we serve Malaysian food to our guests on our National Day," Bashah said. Others who helped in preparing food were Mrs. Normala, Mrs Asiman, Mrs Daoyah, Miss Zawiah and Mrs Khaulah.

Foreign Minister Velayati greeted Ambassador Khalis and wished all success for his country. He told Khalis that he is expecting to meet Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi at the U.N. General Assembly session, scheduled to start from Sept. 23.

Talking to IRAN NEWS, Velayati, who works almost 15 to 16 hours every day, said he will accompany President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on his six-nation African tour.

Commenting on the Northern Iraq situation, Velayati agreed with IRAN NEWS that a tripartite meeting of Iran, Syria and Turkey should be held to discuss the situation there. He said Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's proposal of four-way talks on the issue should be decided by the tripartite meeting.

Boroujerdi is just back from a visit to Pakistan. Indian Ambassador Siddharth Singh and Bangladesh Ambassador Syed Muazzem Ali were talking to him, we noticed.

Talking to IRAN NEWS, Boroujerdi disclosed that he is planning to visit India and said he was looking forward to nice weather.

Pakistan Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Qatar Ambassador Ali Abdul Aziz al-Kwari, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Erich Martin Buttenhauser, Britain Charge d'Affaires Jeffrey James, Yemen Ambassador Abdulla Ali al-Radi, Palestinian Ambassador Ambassador Salah Zawawi and Philippine Embassy Charge d'Affaires Mari-

Cooperatives Effective for Social Justice, Rafsanjani



Photo by Abd

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday attended ceremony here marking the opening of 390 manufacturing and service cooperatives across the country:

In his inaugural statement, Rafsanjani said that cooperatives, despite the opposition of many people, had become a powerful means of administering social justice, IRNA reported.

The President said: "Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran is principally supporting the cooperatives

Iran Welcomes Opening of Strategic Salang Highway in Afghanistan



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK
TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, here yesterday stressed that Iran will support the opening of 'Salang' Highway and exchange of prisoners of war between the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan and the Afghan government.

He said that the two important issues were reviewed by the Iranian government and the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan during his several trips to Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif.

He voiced Iran's satisfaction with the solving of such crucial issues and expressed hope that such a measure would produce fruitful results in future.

Boroujerdi said that discussions held between the Kabul government and the Islamic Unity Party is also important, adding that the Iranian government hopes that it may witness agreement to be concluded between those who are at odds with each other today.

The strategic Salang Highway connects Kabul to Afghanistan's northern region, as well as the Central Asian republics, IRNA reported.

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LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN

SURA 63. THE HYPOCRITES (AL-MUNAFIQUN)

In the Name of God

..... The Beneficent, the Merciful
In fact they are as blocks of timber.
Propped up against a wall.
They think that every, blaring call
Is meant to be against them;
They are the enemy, beware of them,
May God get rid of them!
How wayward they've become!

(F.N.)

*The 30th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form
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05:01
06:37

Leader Pays Tribute to Isfahan's Martyred Youths

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Leader, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, on Saturday paid a personal tribute to Isfahan's youths and people martyred in battle-fronts during the Iraq-Iran War.

In a message to a congress that paid tribute to the memory of martyrs, he said that in his various visits to towns and cities throughout Iran in previous years, he had frequently seen young devoted persons from Isfahan Province assigned to military posts and func-

tions outside of the province with the idea of building military establishments.

He said that this was proof of the capacity of Isfahan's youths, IRNA reported.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said that the task of paying tribute to the martyrs' memory must be done with a view of offering models to the Iranian youths.

He hoped that administrators in other Iranian provinces would copy the congress in Isfahan and

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Balance of Trade \$1.7b in First Quarter of 1375

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - During the first quarter of 1375 (March 21-June 20, 1996) the nation's balance of trade settled at \$1.7b and the balance of current account at \$1.2b, which was a positive development, said Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Mohsen Nourhaksh yesterday.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Seventh Islamic Banking Seminar held here, Nourhaksh added that the nation's monetary performance was better than a year ago.

Nourhaksh said in 1374 (March 20, 1995-March 19, 1996) the nation's balance of trade was \$5.5b and that of current account \$3.2b.

He said the growth of liquidity during the first four months of

1375 was four percent, down by 2.7 percent compared to a 6.7 percent growth in the same period last year.

"This reduces the pressure of inflation and strengthens the rial," said the bank governor adding that in Tir 1375 (21 June-21 July, 1996) 10.3 percent of the liquidity was concentrated outside the banking system compared to a 11.3 percent liquidity last year, showing a better economy.

Nourhaksh said during the first four months of 1375 (March 20/July 21, 1996) the amount of deposits in the banking system was up by 6.6 percent and its volume in the month of Tir was 79 trillion rials which shows that the banking system has performed better compared to the preceding year.

He said the growth of liquidity

Nourhaksh said during the year 1374 the banking system was supposed to pay 921 billion rials credit to the agricultural sector but actually paid 1,611 billions rials. Also 1,335 billion rials credit was approved for payment to the industry and mining sector which was raised to 2,708 billion rials, nearly double the estimated figure.

He said CBI was paying back the nation's debt on schedule and expected a better economy in 1375 compared to the preceding year.

Ayatollah Mousavi Bojnordi, a religious scholar, said only if the CBI meticulously follows a non-interest banking system and becomes free from government control will it succeed.

The banking system is the guardian of the people's deposits

and should pay their profits in a manner that in the face of inflation it would not end in loss," Bojnordi added.

Ayatollah Rezvani, a member of the Guardians' Council said that the materialization of the Islamic banking system does not depend only on the elimination of interest.

The final objective of the Islamic banking is to create a healthy Islamic economy that can look after people's welfare and well-being," said Rezvani adding that banking operations minus interest is a very good law which needs correct implementation to bear fruit.

The seminar which will close today is attended by experts and scholars well versed in monetary matters to discuss Islamic banking system.

Afro-Asian Insurance Conference Convenes

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A 2-day international Credit Insurance Conference starts here tomorrow, convened through the cooperation of Iran Central Insurance Co. and the Federation of Afro-Asian Insurance and Reinsurers (FAIR), a leading insurance authority said.

Mohammad Assudeh, deputy of Iran Central Insurance Co. and executive secretary of the seminar, told the press that the participating countries include Belgium, Greece, England, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, China, Tunisia, Turkey, Pakistan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Libya, Sudan, Lebanon and Tanzania.

The seminar is aimed at publicizing the insurance industry, expanding the insurance culture and optimizing the experiences of other countries in domestic and export insurance.

Currently, President of Iran Central Insurance Co., Dr. Abdol-Nasser is the vice president of FAIR. 165 insurance companies from 51 countries are members of FAIR.

Iran's Labor Minister Leaves for Baku

BAKU (IRNA) - Hussian Kamali, Iran's minister of labor and social affairs will leave for Baku on a two-day official visit to the Republic of Azerbaijan today.

Kamali is expected to hold a meeting with the Deputy Chairman of Azeri Milli Majlis (National Assembly) and Co-chairperson of Irano-Azeri Joint Cooperation Commission, Yashar Aliyev and the Azeri minister of labor and social affairs.

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IRAN WORLD NEWS

Pakistan Shot Down Indian Army Helicopter

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - An newspaper here yesterday claimed an Indian military helicopter which crashed last Monday in Himalayan Kashmir had been shot down by Pakistani soldiers.

The Indian Express daily, quoting "top level" defense sources, said the air force helicopter carrying six personnel was brought down on the Siachen glacier by a shoulder-fired missile.

"It is still not clear how exactly they brought down the chopper, but it appears the Pakistanis fired a missile," the mass-circulation

71% Increase in Number of Tourists

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK TEHRAN - Travel agencies affiliated to Tourist and Recreation Organization (TRO) of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation have succeeded in attracting a total of 1,979 tourists during the first three months of the current year (begin Mar. 20) to visit historical and cultural sights and natural landscapes.

Tourists from Japan, Germany, Austria, Belgium, England, Italy, France, Russia, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Greece, Armenia, Uzbekistan, India and the Persian Gulf littoral states traveled to Iran on sightseeing tours. They visited Isfahan, Shiraz, Hamedan, Tehran, Qom, Kashan, Mashhad, Bam, Kerman and Yazd.

The German tourists outnumbered the other nationalities. There was a 71 percent increase in the number of tourists in the first quarter of the current Iranian year compared to the same period last year.

Aliyev Discusses Relations with Iran's Charge d'Affaires

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN - Azeri National Assembly Deputy Chairman Yashar Aliyev met Iran's Chargé d'Affaires Afshar Soleimani in Baku Saturday.

He said that his government is determined to broaden relations with Iran.

He said in a meeting last week with a number of Azeri government officials, among them ministers of trade, agriculture, energy, and foreign economic relations.

He had reviewed the ways and means for promoting relations with Iran.

Yasser Arafat were also there enjoying the reception.

Yemeni Ambassador Al-Radhi told us that his father, Mr. Ali Mohammed, 86, is due to visit him soon. He is a clergy and will be visiting Iran for the first time.

All the guests were busy enjoying Malaysian food, but we noticed the Danish Embassy's Diplomat Martin Mikkelsen and his wife Elisabeth sitting in a corner. "Aren't you eating anything?" We asked the couple.

Mikkelsen said: "No we are vegetarian and neither of us eat non-veg food." Mikkelsen told IRAN NEWS that he decided to become vegetarian after seeing the conditions of cattle in a grazing field.

"That day I decided that I'd never eat animal," Mikkelsen said, adding that his wife had been vegetarian from early childhood. "We both are fully satisfied and never miss non-veg food," Mikkelsen said.

Esteghlal Hotel Guest Service Manager Ghulamali Akhlaghi was also there and told us that "our guests prefer to read IRAN NEWS".

daily quoted a defense source here as saying.

An Indian army spokesman, however, on Tuesday attributed the crash on the 18,000-foot (5,454-meter) high glacier to mechanical failure.

Two officers and four soldiers died when the Soviet-built helicopter exploded in a ball of fire while carrying essential stores to Indian troops posted near the heavily militarized border.

The Express said a probe has been ordered. In 1993 Indian troops shot down a Pakistani helicopter in Siachen with an anti-tank rocket, killing a brigadier.

Thousands of Indian and Pakistani troops face each other in the icy wasteland of Siachen and often trade small-arms and mortar fire.

MANAMA, BAHRAIN

Israel Not Threatened by Iraqi Conflict

Jerusalem - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel was closely following the Iraqi army offensive against Kurds in Northern Iraq but saw no immediate sign the conflict endangered the Jewish state.

"We are closely following what is happening in Iraq, although we consider it unlikely for now that the fighting will spread in our direction," Netanyahu said in an interview on Israeli army radio.

Israeli media reports said the prime minister had discussed the crisis with U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk and that Washington had promised to inform Israel prior to any eventual U.S. military action against the Iraqi drive.

Arafat Releases Islamic Opponents

GAZA CITY - Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat ordered the release this weekend of more than 80 Islamic opponents of the peace process who were jailed following a spate of suicide attacks against Israeli civilians, a Palestinian official said yesterday.

In all, 84 detainees were freed Saturday from jails in the West Bank towns of Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarm, marking the single biggest wave of releases of Islamic militants since the crackdown began in March, said Azzam al-Ahmad, public works minister in Arafat's self-rule government.

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"The Palestinian Authority (PA) has decided to release all detainees who have no charges pending against them," he told AFP.

Officials declined to say how many of the hundreds of Islamic militants arrested following the suicide attacks in February and March remained in PA jails, but they were believed to number fewer than 200.

Saturday's releases came amid a series of moves by Arafat to calm Palestinian popular frustration with his lack of success in keeping up the pace of the peace process since the rightwing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in Israel in June.

Bahrain Frees 100 Shias

MANAMA, BAHRAIN - Bahrain has released 100 Shia Muslims detained during the anti-government unrest which has shaken the Persian Gulf Arab archipelago in the last two years, judicial sources and officials said yesterday.

Judicial sources said 100 detainees had been released while an official spokesman said a "certain number of people arrested during the unrest were released after their involvement in it was not proven."

The authorities say the total number detained does not exceed 1,000 while the opposition claims more than 2,000 people are in prison.

At least 24 people have died in the unrest which erupted in December 1994 with mainly Shia Muslim demands for the restoration of the Parliament which the Sunni Muslim-led government suspended in 1975.

Austrian Chancellor Meets Netanyahu

YERUSALEM - Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky became the first foreign leader to meet here with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday at the start of a two-day official visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Vranitzky met Netanyahu at his Jerusalem office and then hosted an official lunch for the Austrian leader.

The Austrian chancellor was due to meet Israeli President Ezer Weizman later yesterday before traveling to Gaza City early today for talks with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Israel-Lebanon Cease-fire Committee Meets

BEIRUT, LEBANON - The committee monitoring the cease-fire on the Israeli-Lebanese border met for the third time yesterday in Naqura in Southern Lebanon at Israel's request, U.N. sources said.

Israel called the meeting to protest against a Hezbollah attack August 29 which wounded two Lebanese civilians near the village of Shih in the Jewish state's self-declared security zone in Southern Lebanon.

possibility that a wing (faction) will come to power which would try to hold sway over all the branches of government to the detriment of the country's future.

A member of the Assembly of the Followers of the Imam's Line of Thought, Qomi said this proposal is set forth due to concerns for the future of presidency in the country.

The JRM and the Association of Islamic Coalition are endeavoring to win the presidential elections to make their own views dominant and appoint their members to various posts," he said.

"I believe no wing alone can run the affairs of the country, and all revolutionary forces should work in unison," he stressed.

The Varanin Representative added that if Mir Hussein Musavi, who is supported by most wings, becomes a candidate for presidency, he can continue the path of President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

"Because of his experiences during the war years, the support he received from Imam Khomeini, the fact that he enjoys the confidence of the Majlis, together with the excellent reputation he earned as the prime minister, Musavi is highly qualified for presidency. Others are not as qualified as he or President Hashemi," Qomi added.

Responding to statements made by Majlis Speaker Nateq-Nouri who said the Leader had rejected amending the Constitution, Qomi stated, "Naturally, we all heed the Leader's guidelines who said after Mr. Hashemi, another prominent person will stand at the helm. But, the Leader did not explicitly say that the Constitution should not be amended. The statements of Mr. Nateq-Nouri are merely his interpretation of the Leader's words."

He concluded by saying that, "The JRM and the Association of Islamic Coalition, alone, are not capable of running the affairs of the country in the best possible way."

IRAQ

Iraqi forces and their Kurdish allies captured Sulaymaniyah yesterday, but Iraq denied it had attacked the town.

Quoting Kurdish sources in Iraqi Kurdistan, IRNA said the Iraqi forces and the KDP had seized control of town near the Iranian border from the rival PUK.

A U.N. official in Arbil, contacted by telephone from Baghdad, said Saturday's fighting in the city of some one million people had left around 100 civilians and combatants dead.

"My estimate is that 100 are dead if you count the peshmergas," or Kurdish guerrillas, said the official. "I don't know how many are wounded. I was not able to visit the hospitals."

The official said more than 100 Iraqi tanks were still deployed in Arbil. "You also have to count 100 military trucks," he said. "The Iraqi flag is flying over the Kurdish Parliament building," he said.

An official with a U.N. relief agency in Arbil said there was a "very tense calm" in the city yesterday.

Iraq announced late Saturday it would withdraw its troops "very soon" from Northern Iraq, and that its offensive had been a "limited" operation carried out at the request of the KDP.

An Iraqi government spokesman said Iraqi forces had "achieved the main goal of their mission" and would "return to their previous positions very soon."

The U.S. placed its forces in the Persian Gulf on "high alert"

WEATHER	
Teheran Temperature	
Maximum	34°C
Minimum	23°C
Shiny sky with wind	
Temperature extremes till noon today	
High: Ahwaz	47°C
Low: Qaen	3°C
Temperature in some major cities of the world on Sept. 1, 1996	
Paris	17°C
London	19°C
Jeddah	36°C
Abu Dhabi	38°C
Kuwait	43°C
Madrid	24°C
Karachi	28°C
Rome	25°C

after the offensive by President Saddam Hussein's troops, and expressed skepticism yesterday that Iraq would honor its pledge to withdraw.

"Given the provocations of Iraq, we don't put a lot of credibility in that," said White House spokesman Michael McCurry.

U.S. Defense Department officials said the U.S. was weighing whether to send to the Persian Gulf region an air expeditionary force of about 34 combat aircraft and 1,200 support personnel from U.S. bases.

Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller yesterday called on Saddam to withdraw his forces immediately.

A statement faxed to IRAN NEWS by the Turkish Embassy here expressed concern over the developments in Northern Iraq.

"Turkey expects that all concerned parties immediately stop fighting," the statement appealed to all Kurdish groups.

"Turkey will never permit a new exodus from Northern Iraq towards the Turkish border to take place," the statement said and warned that Turkey would take all necessary measures to prevent such developments.

In Ankara, Ciller said Turkey was conducting intense diplomacy with the U.S., Iran and Iraq.

British, French and U.S. aircraft patrol a no-fly zone in Northern Iraq above the 36th Parallel in operation Provide Comfort, which was set up after the 1991 Persian Gulf War under a U.N. resolution.

Iraq said yesterday that it intervened in the Kurdish-held North to demonstrate its sovereignty over the region and warned against any foreign intervention.

President Bill Clinton in Washington said the U.S. viewed with great concern the Iraqi incursion into the safe haven set by the allied forces.

In Washington, Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole Saturday said Baghdad's attack on Northern Iraq shows that the U.N.'s move to ease sanctions against Iraq may have come too early.

French troops based in the Persian Gulf are on alert like their U.S. counterparts. French Defense Ministry said yesterday.

No U.N. Security Council meeting is planned, but British, French and U.S. officials held informal contacts throughout the day on Saturday.

MUSLIM

Misuri did not make any statement yesterday and he and his entourage were immediately whisked to the Manila Hotel, witnesses said.

Hassan said that the recent "fruitful" visit to Malaysia by the

President was an important event aimed at expanding Teheran-Kuala Lumpur ties.

The Malaysian diplomat pointed to the rise in quality in Iranian production standards and called for a more active Iranian private sector presence in Malaysia and for joint investment in various spheres.

Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction with Malaysia's stands on the Muslim world and global issues, including its opposition to the bullying policies of the U.S.

He said Iran was ready to make joint investments in the oil, gas, petrochemical, telecommunication and transportation industries.

LEADER

organize similar gatherings for paying homage to their martyrs, and at the same time offer the Iranian Muslim youth an ideological direction, a way of life, and a religion-based path that would appeal to them as a timeless model for their self-fulfillment as religious citizens.

The Post said that Larsen was joined in his mediation effort last week by U.S. Mideast coordinator Dennis Ross, who met with Gold and the Norwegian diplomat in Paris from Monday to Wednesday.

Ross subsequently played a key role in getting Netanyahu to agree on a resumption of public negotiations with the Palestinians which are due to begin later this week, Israeli media reported.

Netanyahu agreed to resume the political negotiations after Arafat, responding to growing Palestinian popular unhappiness with the stalemate in the peace process, called for mass protests in the Palestinian territories.

in the first magazine catering to Muslim women, "Sisters." Unlike its American sister publications, this magazine features no provocatively dressed women on the cover, underwear advertisements or frank discussions about sex.

"American magazines are too superficial," sniffed Junejo, of Seattle, Wash. "They talk about irrelevant subjects that are too trivial."

Pointing in his magazine, which displays on its cover a drawing of a woman wearing scarves and holding bouquets of flowers, Junejo indicated the topics in the first issue of Sisters: What should be in a Muslim marriage contract. Facing cancer with faith. Growing garden roses.

"These are issues that give women self-esteem, build their character and make them full-fledged, productive members of this society," said Junejo.

MUSLIMS MARCH ON CONTESTED VILLAGE:

Bosnian Refugee Vote Under Way, Hits Boycott, "Postal" Problems

ZAGREB, CROATIA (AFP) - Early voting by tens of thousands of Bosnian refugees in dozens of countries around the world is under way, but has been hit in two of the main countries by boycott calls and "postal" problems, OSCE officials said yesterday.

Some 640,000 Bosnian refugees in 55 countries have registered to vote in the first post-war elections in Bosnia on September 14. Most will vote by postal ballot but some will vote in Bosnia on the day.

The bulk of those - voting for a new national presidency and entity-level parliaments - are in Croatia, Germany and Serbia, the



GREBAK, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: Supporters of Bosnia's ruling Muslim SDA Party cheer and wave flags for the Leader of the Party, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic as he addressed a political rally Aug. 31 at a former military outpost in Grebak, high in the mountains to the south of Sarajevo.

(AFP Photo)

countries to which the majority of Bosnia's refugees fled during the three-and-a-half year conflict.

Early balloting of Bosnian refugees in Croatia started Saturday and was to be completed yesterday, with a high turnout expected, electoral officials said.

Voting passed off generally peacefully, apart from an incident at Dubrovnik where a group of Bosnian Croat refugees from southern Bosnia Saturday smashed up a polling station after being sent polling papers meant for Bosnian Serbs, officials said.

In Serbia however, voter participation after four days of voting stood late Saturday at just 25 percent, according to official estimates.

Zivota de Luka, head of the Serbia mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe, which is supervising the poll, said voting had been dogged by the late arrival of ballot papers in the post and the complexity of voting rules.

Some voters in Serbia were indicating that the logistical problems might be deliberate, aimed at curbing Serb voting.

Most Bosnian voters in Serbia are Serbs, while those in Croatia are Croats.

In the other great center for Bosnia refugees - Germany, the host of most Muslim refugees - turnout has also so far proved very low.

An OSCE spokesman in Bonn said that by Friday they had received barely 4,000 ballot papers from some 128,000 registered postal voters among the 320,000 Bosnian refugees in the country.

The main Muslim party, the

Party of Democratic Action (SDA), late Friday lifted a call for a partial boycott of the poll, but party leader and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic maintained uncertainty over whether the SDA would participate in the elections.

"As far as participation in the vote in the country is concerned we will make the (final) decision when we have cleared up some things," Izetbegovic told a rally Saturday.

He said a team of government experts was still examining "the good and bad effects of the elections, and what would happen if we don't or do participate at the polls."

The party for Bosnia-Herzegovina of former Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic maintained its call for a partial boycott in a protest over voter rules.

Mohamed Sacirbey, Bosnia's ambassador to the United Nations, said Friday he had received a U.S. pledge that some forms, registering Serbs in towns that were previously Muslim-majority, would be withdrawn.

According to another report from Mahala in Bosnia-Herzegovina, U.S. tanks and troops moved through a Bosnian village Saturday in a show of force meant to thwart pre-election violence between Muslims trying to rebuild their homes and Serbs who don't want them there.

Amid the flexing of NATO muscle in and around Mahala, about 75 Muslims marched toward the village in Serb territory, site of a recent clash by the two groups. By late afternoon, about 50 had reached a U.S. control point.

Fame and Fortune Await the 60 Millionth Thai

BANGKOK, THAILAND (AP) - The baby whose birth brings Thailand's population to the 60 million mark will be awarded about 150,000 baht (\$6,000) worth of gold, reported the Bangkok post Saturday.

But late-starting contestants will be at a distinct disadvantage in the contest, announced Friday by the Health Ministry. The blessed event is projected to happen in a month's time.

Deputy Health Minister Sora-Ar Klinprathum announced that the prize will be awarded to the first child born after 11 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Contestants delivered by caesarean section are not eligible.

Terrorists Leave Homemade Bomb on Port-au-Prince Main Street

PORTE-AU-PRINCE, HAITI (AP) - U.N. peacekeepers detonated a homemade bomb on a main street of Haiti's capital Saturday morning.

A resident, Jonathan Begot, watched a man placed the device under a van on Jean-Jacques Desaline Blvd. and alerted police.

U.N. peacekeepers blew it up a couple of hours before the area would have begun busting with

Beatings Led to Bloody Mutiny by Korean-Chinese Seamen

PUJAN, SOUTH KOREA (AFP) - Beatings, humiliation and fears of deportation caused a bloody mutiny last month by six Korean-Chinese seamen aboard a Honduras-registered tuna fishing boat in the south Pacific, police said yesterday.

The mutineers, all ethnic Koreans from China, confessed to killing seven South Koreans with knives, axes and clubs one by one on August 2 after they were ordered to go home, Sa Chan-Soo, a marine police investigator, said.

Over 96 Killed in Guerrilla Assaults in Colombia

BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (API) - In one of the bloodiest guerrilla offensives in years, at least 96 people were killed in retaliation for government efforts to suppress protests by coca farmers, authorities said Saturday.

Fifty soldiers were killed in an assault on a military base Friday night near the border with Ecuador, radio stations said, citing sources in the Defense Ministry. The army located the bodies only on Saturday because of poor communications. It was the single deadliest clash in years.

RCN radio said 50 soldiers were also abducted in the attack in a remote jungle region 340 miles (550 kms) south of the capital, Bogota.

Rebel casualties were not immediately known.

In past weeks, tens of thousands of peasants have gathered in southern Colombia to protest government plans to destroy coca, the plant used in cocaine processing.

Authorities accuse guerrillas, who say they represent Colombia's poor, of provoking the protests to protect drug trafficking operations. Protesters say growing coca is only way to make a living.

Gen. Jose Serrano, the national police chief, said the rebel offensive was in revenge for fighting between the military and peasants in which at least 12 civilians have died.

"Those behind these attacks are wrong if they think they can distract the government's attention from (fumigation) operations in the south of the country," Presi-

dent Ernesto Samper said.

Among the victims in attacks on Friday were 29 police officers and soldiers. Rebels killed five officers and a civilian at a police station in south Bogota, a poor area where leftist militants are active.

Police in a nearby station heard explosions and escaped before about 70 rebels arrived at their post. Both police stations were destroyed.

Eighteen police officers and 10 soldiers died in other attacks around Colombia. Eleven guerrillas were killed.

Guerrillas also killed the mayor of Susa, 95 miles (150 kms) northeast of Bogota, at a roadblock, police said. They dynamited highway toll booths and stormed about a dozen small towns.

Chinese Arrest 180 Muslim Scholars in Xinjiang

ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN (AFP) - Muslim separatists claimed yesterday that Chinese authorities had arrested 180 Mullahs, Quranic professors and students since mid-July in the far western Chinese province of Xinjiang.

Yousoupbek Moukhissi, head of the separatist Uyghur Movement exiled in Kazakhstan on Xinjiang's western border, told AFP that 50 people had been detained over the weekend in the main city of Kashgar and another 130 elsewhere in the region since July 14.

Moukhissi, who heads the United National Revolutionary Front (UNRF), said that China's radio Urumqi, based in Xinjiang, had claimed that the people were rounded up to be given a course in Communist re-education. "But it is not true, they were arrested," Moukhissi said, citing Uyghur leaders in Xinjiang.

In Xinjiang, "first many Uyghur activists were captured, and now they're arresting Mullahs," Moukhissi said.

ALGIERS, ALGERIA (AFP) - Seven Islamic activists were killed in three separate operations by security forces during the past five days, the Algerian press reported yesterday.

The El Watan daily said five were killed late Wednesday in a shootout in the coastal resort of Zeralda, west of Algiers.

Another was shot dead by se-

Kashmir Pilgrimage Toll 240, Search for Stranded Hindus Ends

SRINAGAR, INDIA (AFP) - The death toll from a devastated Hindu pilgrimage in the Kashmir Himalayas has reached 240, an official spokesman said here yesterday.

Kashmir government spokesman K.B. Jindal said the toll of 240 was the final figure given by rescuers, who ended a search yesterday for more bodies on the blizzard-bit route to the pilgrimage site in the Amarnath cave.

"The final toll is 240, but there could be one more or one less death...." Jindal said in the state summer capital of Srinagar.

A British national of Indian origin was among the pilgrims who died since August 22 when blizzards and icy rains pounded the route taken by tens of thousands of unprepared Hindu pilgrims to the cave, Jindal said.

The pilgrimage, slated to run from August 16-28, was called off by the government as the scale of the disaster became apparent but 650 pilgrims refused to stop until they had reached the holy site.

Almost 60,000 of an estimated 85,000 devotees who tried to reach the sacred site, 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of Srinagar, were stranded in the Kashmir valley during the week-long disaster.

There has been panic across India and abroad as relatives of many of those killed or hospitalized with frostbite are yet to be advised of the pilgrims' fates.

A government-backed rescue operation evacuated thousands of stranded pilgrims to relief camps on the route to the holy site. The scale of the tragedy has put Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda in the middle of a political storm.



HARLOW, UNITED KINGDOM: Artist impression of the seven Iraqis accused hijackers at Harlow Magistrates with their interpreters (standing) Aug. 31. The Iraqis were charged with hijacking a Sudan Airways flight and forcing it to fly to London and remanded in custody until Sept. 9 by the court. (AFP Photo)

1000

Chechens: Huge Task to Enforce Peace, But Independence Won



YANDARBIYEV



Boris Yeltsin

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Chechen rebel leaders warned yesterday of the huge task ahead to implement a breakthrough peace accord ending the 20-month conflict in Chechnya, but insisted they had won independence.

Separatist Leader Zelimhan Yandarbiyev, quoted by the Interfax news agency, said the accord signed early Saturday was "an important step toward peace."

But, he warned, "There is still an enormous amount of work to be done and a difficult struggle against those forces who want to pursue the war."

His reserved comments contrast with the markedly more enthusiastic reaction of other separatist leaders after the accord was signed by Alexander Lebed for Moscow and rebel Chief of Staff

Aslan Maskhadov. Meanwhile Kohdzh-Akhmed Yarikhanov, who led the separatist delegation in the talks much of the time, said the deal confirmed Chechnya's independence and did not put off the issue for five years, as claimed by Moscow.

He said the accord did not contain the word "status," contrary to the text of Lebed's draft proposal. Mention of the word "would have been imputing doubt on the status, which is not the case," he told AFP.

Instead it confirmed Chechnya's independence. Yarikhanov added, even though the text said "an accord on bilateral relations between the Russian Federation and Chechen Republic must be found by December 31, 2001."

Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the parliamentary commission on

foreign affairs and a member of Lebed's delegation, admitted Saturday the accord was worded so each side could claim its own version of events.

Chechen rebel Vice-President Said-Khassan Abumuslimov immediately said then that "for us there is no change, Chechnya remains independent."

Lukin said, however: "We also consider that their status has been decided, but under our constitution."

Yandarbiyev, who became separatist leader in April on the death of Dzhokhar Dudayev, warned against "provocations," which he said supporters of a military solution in Chechnya had already begun, to try to upset the accord.

Speaking to Interfax from an unspecified location in southern Chechnya, he cited as an example the arrest earlier this week of two Chechen journalists in neighboring Dagestan, which he said was by Russian special forces.

The future of Chechnya's Moscow-installed government was also in doubt.

Yarikhanov said the text of the accord differed from Lebed's draft in making no mention of the government, most of which fled to Moscow when the peace talks began.

According to Interfax, the government, headed by Doku

Zavgayev, might resign yesterday, obliging Moscow and the separatists to begin delicate talks on how to form a new administration.

Zavgayev himself however did not appear ready to resign, telling Moscow Echo radio yesterday that he knew nothing about any such move and did not believe it.

Lebed, Yeltsin's representative in Chechnya, has said he favors a coalition government for the North Caucasus Republic.

The accord is to be studied by the Russian government Monday at a meeting of key ministers presided by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Meanwhile, President Boris Yeltsin cast doubt Saturday on the validity of a peace accord signed by his Security chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel leaders, saying the document demanded "additional evaluation and assessment."

The skeptical statement from Yeltsin came just hours after Lebed and the top separatist commander, Aslan Maskhadov, declared an end to the 20-month war in Chechnya that has killed more than 30,000 people and ravaged the tiny southern republic.

Despite new doubts, the sides proceeded with the withdrawal from Grozny, part of an earlier military truce, leaving the capital in the hands of joint Russian-Chechen patrols.

Roman Catholic Church Attacked in Sri Lanka

The World at a Glance



BELLACHY, N. IRELAND - Protestant marchers and Catholic protesters confronted each other in towns across Northern Ireland late Saturday but avoided serious violence.

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Hurricane Edouard churned northward yesterday off the U.S. eastern seaboard, sending pounding waves along the coast and threatening beachgoers during the three-day, summer-end labor day weekend.

ANKARA, TURKEY - Two ministers of the Islamic-led government left for Libya on Saturday in a bid to convince Tripoli to pay up the \$ 320 million owed to Turkish contractors.

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - As the death toll in a mudslide at a Malaysian aborigine village rose to 23 yesterday, a geomancer called for a halt to hilltop tree-clearing, believing the landslip to be the work of a disturbed "dragon."

KHARTOUM, SUDAN - Residents of the Sudanese capital rushed yesterday to bakeries looking for bread but many returned empty-handed amid reports of huge shortages.

CANNES, FRANCE - A circus trainer who was mauled by an escaped tiger died during the night in a hospital in Nice, police said yesterday.

CALCUTTA, INDIA - Doctors treating Mother Teresa said here yesterday they would stem the flow of visitors to the ailing Nobel laureate, saying she did not sleep well during the night.

MONTRÉAL, CANADA - At least five people died in a blaze at a senior citizens' home, police said.

(DISPATCHES)

Missing Belgian Girls Found in Cologne

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) - Two teenage girls who went missing earlier this week amid continuing revelations of a paedophile ring operating in Belgium were found in Cologne, Western Germany, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, has not confirmed her statement.

RTE reported that the mother of one of the two girls, who were discovered safe and sound late Saturday, claimed the girls had been kidnapped.

But the prosecutor's office, which has so far declined to give details about the girls' disappearance or their reappearance in Germany some 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, has not confirmed her statement.

Rachel Legeardt, 18, and Severine Pottier, 19, from the eastern Belgian town of Nandrin, went missing after they failed to return home last Thursday from a shopping trip to Liege.

NEW DELHI, INDIA (AFP) - At least 42 people were feared drowned when their boat sank on Saturday in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the United News of India reported yesterday.

The boat carrying some 50 passengers went down in the Nalgonda River in the district of Vijayanagaram.

The news agency, quoting official sources, said rescuers had recovered two bodies. The boat capsized overnight following heavy rains.

Most of the passengers were tribes people from the remote district of coastal Andhra Pradesh, the news agency added.

Egypt Rejects British Explanations of London Conference

CAIRO, EGYPT (AFP) - Egypt yesterday accused Britain of backing terrorism after officials in London said they would allow a conference of Islamic activists to go ahead as planned next week.

"We cannot accept statements by London that British law allows the convening of such meetings out of respect for democracy, human rights and freedom of expression," Interior Minister Hassan al-Alfi said.

"To authorize such a meeting shows a will to provide assistance and facilities to these criminals (Islamic activists) who are plotting against the countries," Alfi told the

government daily Al-Ahram. Alfi said the activists "are granted entry visas into Britain to coordinate their destructive activities, without any problems."

On Thursday the British Home Office said it had "no power to ban" the rally for revival conference set to take place in London on September 8.

"We are well aware of this rally, but we have no power to ban it," said a Home Office spokeswoman in London.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry summoned a senior British diplomat last week to voice its concern and demand information on the conference.



ARROYO XUCHITL, OAXACA, MEXICO: Mexican Judicial Police arrive in Arroyo Xuchitl in the mountains of the southern state of Oaxaca, during a patrol Aug. 30, to question residents about the Popular Revolutionary Army (EPR). The Mexican government has deployed army troops to Oaxaca and Guerrero after EPR rebels attacked police and army posts in both states, reportedly leaving 14 people dead.

(AFP Photo)

IRAN NEWS

Edwards Sparks Wigan Into Final

LONDON (AFP) - Captain Shaun Edwards scored four tries as Wigan edged out Bradford Bulls 42-36 in a dramatic first semi-final of the Super League Premiership on Saturday night.

Wigan needed to be at their best to win a 15-try classic and book their place in next weekend's final, their fifth final appearance in a row in the competition.

British test scrum-half Edwards, who signed a new extended contract in midweek with deposed champions Wigan, celebrated with a man-of-the-match display.

VOL. II. No. 540 TEHRAN Price 200 Rials
Monday September 2, 1996, Shahriar 12, 1375, Rabi II 17, 1417

SPORTS

Five-Set Win for Chang

NEW YORK (AFP) - Michael Chang's persistence and experience paid off on Saturday as he emerged victorious from a rough five-set match with unseeded Vince Spadea in the third round of the U.S. Open Tennis Championships.

"I was definitely in a hole out there," said Chang, who started to climb out of it when he broke Spadea to love when Spadea served for the match at 5-4 in the fourth.

"I was really tired in that fifth set," Chang said. "I just tried to hang tough."

Chang, ranked third in the world and seeded second here, won 6-4, 5-7, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 in three hours and 49 minutes, taking his win-loss record in five-setters to 18-8. Spadea, ranked 69th in the world, fell to 0-2.

"To be honest, I don't really know how I was able to win today's match," Chang said, adding that it might have to do with his ability to keep trying, even when defeat seems inevitable.

"In all the matches that I've played, if I'm down a match point or the other guy's serving for the match, I don't count myself out," he said.

Chang's victory in the 10th game of the fourth launched a string of 11 unanswered points. It was the first of five games in a row that took him to a 2-0 lead in the fifth before he dropped his own serve to let the gap shrink to 2-1.

He went up a break for good in the sixth, when he took a 4-2 lead.

"He raised his level and I didn't get too many serves in, didn't

attack," Spadea said. "I didn't hit my shots the way I had been to get to that point."

Spadea, who beat seventh-seeded Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov to reach the fourth round last year, saved one match point in the ninth game with a backhand volley winner before Chang put away a backhand of his own.

Meanwhile another battle was raging out on court 16 of the National Tennis Center, where Spaniard Javier Sanchez saved four match points in the fifth-set tiebreaker to beat Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6).

Stoltenberg saved two match points in the 12th game of the last set to force the decider, which he led 6-2 before Sanchez roared back with the last six points of the match.

Sanchez set up a fourth-round meeting with France's Arnaud Boetsch, who beat American Jeff Tarango 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (8/6). Swedish 13th seed Thomas Enqvist beat Ecuadorian Pablo Campana 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Sixth-seeded American Andre Agassi used a third-set tiebreaker to post a straight-set victory over unseeded Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (9/7).

Agassi was relieved to get it done in three after trailing 4-1.

"I didn't feel it was necessarily a great breaker that I played, but I managed to win it," he said. "It's nice not to be out there playing a fourth set when you were in control of the match the whole time."

In the fourth round Agassi will

play David Wheaton, who beat fellow American Alex O'Brien 1-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-2.

Chang will face Switzerland's Jakob Hlasek, who downed Argentina's Hernan Gumy 7-5, 6-1, 6-2.



MICHAEL CHANG

NEW YORK (AFP) - Russian 15-year-old Anna Kournikova, playing the third Grand Slam match of her life, upset 14th seeded Austrian Barbara Paulus on Saturday to set up a meeting with world number one Steffi Graf.

Parnevik Ahead in PGA

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN (AFP) - Sweden's Jesper Parnevik fired an eight-under par 63 here Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead entering the final round of the \$1.2 million PGA Greater Milwaukee Open.

Parnevik, seeking his first PGA Tour triumph, stands at 19-under par 194 entering the final round, one better than second-round leader Nolan Henke.

After starting with a par and a bogey, Parnevik birdied six of the next seven holes and sank three more back-nine birdies, including 12-footers on the 15th and 17th holes.

"I can't remember when I've putted this well," Parnevik said.

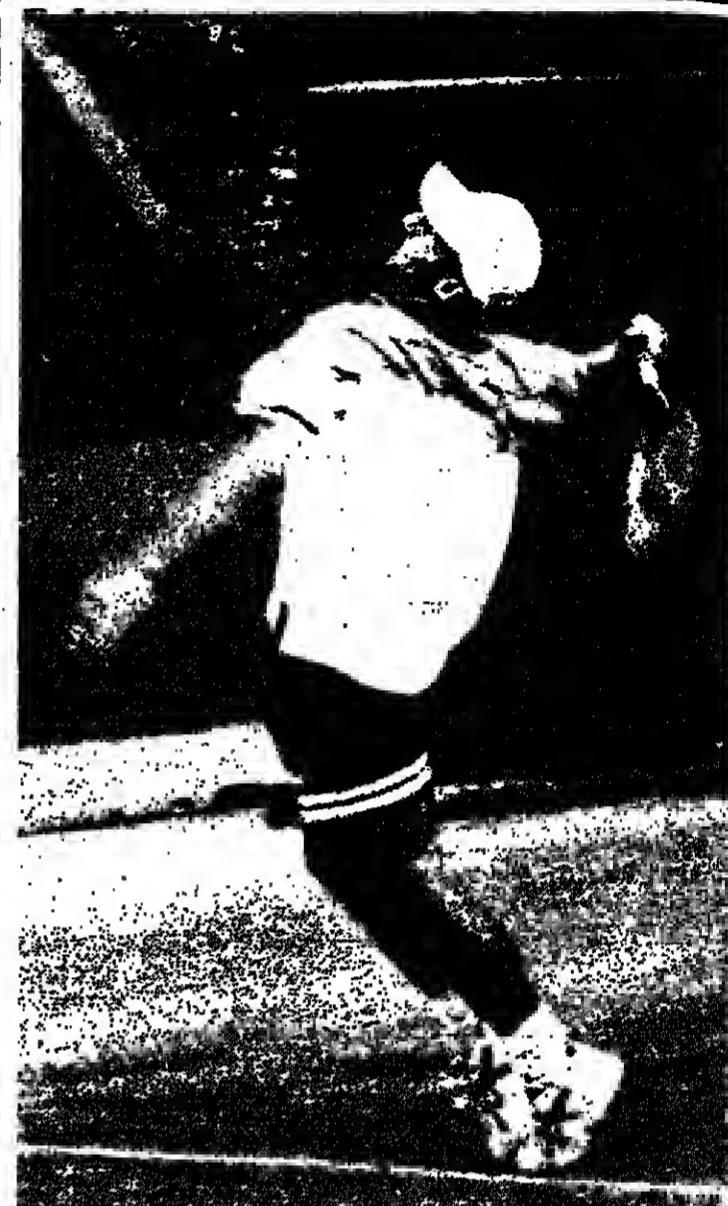
"I was disappointed when a 12-footer didn't go in. My game feels very good. I've been fading my driver but today whenever I set up for a fade it went straight. Whenever everyone's making birdies you never want to be even par."

Three-time U.S. amateur champion Tiger Woods, who made the cut in his first tournament as a professional, fired a 73 and was 15 strokes back.

Henke, who had a 67, seeks his first title since 1993. Henke's four Saturday birdies included a 45-footer on the (par-3 215-yard) seventh hole and a 12-footer on the 12th hole.

"I didn't hit it very well," said Henke. "Jesper blew right me once he did. I knew I had to make birdies just to keep up. I made some really good pars. I basically picked up where I left off yesterday afternoon. Right now, I can't put my finger on what's wrong."

Sports Highlights



TEHRAN: Giorgio Galimberti of Italy winning SAT 96 men's single final at Enghelab Sports Complex September 1.
(Photo by Hatami)

India Rout Zimbabwe in Singer Cup

COLOMBO (AFP) - India brushed aside lowly Zimbabwe by seven wickets on Sunday to stay in the race for a place in the final of the four-nation Singer Cup here.

Stung by an embarrassing nine-wicket defeat by world champions Sri Lanka in their first match, the Indians raised their game to record a hard-needed win in the preliminary league.

India shot out Zimbabwe for a modest 226 after captain Sachin Tendulkar won the toss and decided to field on a damp wicket at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja then hammered 91 for the first wicket by the 15th over to lead India's easy victory with 37 balls to spare.

Daddy Caddy Helps Tschetter Shoot to Lead

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (AFP) - Kris Tschetter, using her daddy as a first-time caddy, fired a nine-under-par 63 Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead after the first round of the \$575,000 LPGA Rail Classic here.

Tschetter, using a new putter, carded nine birdies and an eagle to offset two bogeys and come within one stroke of the course record set in 1991 by Britain's Laura Davies.

Tschetter is a stroke ahead of Denise Killeen as she looks for her first win since 1992.

"I changed my putter yesterday," she said. "I've really struggled with my putting this year. I'm still a little unsure over the short ones. My dad is caddy for me, so he thinks he's the best caddy in the world."

She birdied the 11th through 14th holes and eagled the fourth and birdied the final three holes of the front side.

Russia Beats Slovakia in American Division of World Cup

MONTRÉAL (AFP) - Russia, led by National Hockey League players, performed only as well necessary Saturday in defeating Slovakia 7-4 in the World Cup of Hockey.

Alexander Mogilny of the Vancouver Canucks had two goals and three assists while Sergei Fedorov of the Detroit Red Wings scored twice and assisted twice as the Russians evened their record at 1-1 following a 5-3 loss to Canada in Vancouver on Thursday.

It was the first game of the tournament for Slovakia which is not expected to make round two.

The second round will involve the top three teams from the North American Division, which is made up of Canada and the United States along with Russia and Slovakia, and the top three teams from the European Division.



LA CORUNA, SPAIN: Deportivo De La Coruna's Brazilian player Donato (C) fights for the ball with Real Madrid's Raul (L) and Milla (R) during their Spanish League match Aug. 31 in La Coruna. The match ended 1-1.
(AFP Photo)

Deportivo

IndyCar Pole
Italy's Alex Zanardi won the pole position at the race track, turning a lap of 1:30.000. The series points in the season 1996, which the American driver won with a total of 100 overall points. Pole position was given to Bryan Herta, who had a total of 97 overall points.

Highlights

IRAN BUSINESS NEWS

Leaders Warned Poverty, Vulnerability on the Increase in Pacific

MAJURO (AFP) - There is mounting evidence "poverty, inequality and economic vulnerability" are increasing in Pacific island countries, the report says.

The study, written by the South Pacific forum secretariat for this week's 16-nation summit here, says that growth is low and that half of the Pacific member countries of the Asian Development Bank "are facing some form of economic crisis."

The combination of low economic growth and high popula-

Saudi Arabia, Yemen Sign Economic Agreement

SANA, YEMEN (AP) - Saudi Arabia and Yemen have signed an economic cooperation accord, signaling a thaw in relations that had soured over Yemen's pro-Iraq tilt during the 1990-91 Persian Gulf crisis.

The agreement was signed at the presidential palace in Sana'a late Thursday, the second day of a visit to Yemen by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan, official Yemeni sources said.

Sultan was accompanied by interior minister, Prince Nayef, foreign minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, and other officials.

It was the first high-ranking Saudi delegation to visit Yemen since the strain six years ago.

The economic agreement encourages Saudi investment in Yemen and paves the way for commercial and technical cooperation between the two largest countries in the Arabian Peninsula, said the sources, who refused to be identified by name.

They did not give details of the economic accord, and there was no word of agreement on other issues discussed during Sultan's visit, which ends later Friday.

Sultan had talks with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and parliament speaker, Abdullah al-Ahmar, on a decades-long border

Japan's Budget Requests at Record 81 Trillion Yen

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's national budget requests for the year starting April, 1997 have shown an 8.4 percent annual rise to a record 81.44 trillion yen (\$754 billion), the finance ministry said Saturday.

Requests from government ministries and agencies for core general operating expenditures, including defense and public works, totaled 44.62 trillion yen, up 3.4 percent from the initial budget for the current financial year to March, 1997.

The 3.4 percent increase is the ceiling agreed by the cabinet of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in July, and is lower than the real growth of 4.2 percent in the year to March, 1997.

The tough ceiling was set to ease growing pressure on national finance and reform the country's outdated post-war economic structure.

The finance ministry will screen and cut requests to cover an expected gap between spending requests and government revenue.

Middle East Bank to Open in November 1997

CAIRO (AFP) - The Middle East and North Africa Development Bank will open in November 1997, a high-level Egyptian official said Saturday after the agreement creating the bank was concluded.

The United States and Russia formulated the agreement creating the bank, and other founders must sign it by October 1997, Rauf Saad, deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, told journalists.

The agreement allows other countries to join the bank, whose creation was decided in October 1995 in Amman during the second economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa.

The United States, the largest shareholder, will contribute 21 percent of the capital, followed by Japan, which will put up 9.5 percent with Russia providing six percent. The bank's capital will be \$5 billion.

Most European countries and the Persian Gulf monarchies have said they will not contribute capital to the bank.

"Four peace process partners will benefit from the bank - Egypt, Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian authority," Saad said, adding that Lebanon and Syria will also reap the advantages "when they make peace agreements with Israel."

Russian, Iraqi Officials Discuss Business Opportunities

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz met Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posnayev here Saturday to discuss possible Russian supplies of food and medicine to Iraq, Iraqi officials said.

The Russian diplomat, who was last here in June, arrived in Baghdad Friday at the head of a team of representatives from the Russian ministries of oil and energy and business executives.

The Russian delegation is to explore business opportunities now that the United Nations is poised to permit Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil in exchange for food and medicine.

The official news agency INA quoted Aziz as telling Posnayev that "Iraq wants to see Russian



TAREQ AZIZ

companies help supply Baghdad with humanitarian products

within the framework of the Baghdad-U.N. oil-for-food agreement" worked out in May.

The agreement, the first lifting of the six-year oil embargo imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990, is to be strictly supervised by the United Nations.

The two men also discussed relations between Iraq and the U.N. special commission on removing Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and Aziz said that his country would fulfill its U.N. commitments.

The meeting between Aziz and Posnayev came as Iraqi troops launched an offensive with Kurdish fighters to seize control of the town of Arbil in northern Iraq from a rival Kurdish group.

British Airways Profit Up to £150m in First Quarter

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - British Airways announced pre-tax profits £150 million for the three months to the end of June - up 11.1 percent on the £135 million achieved in the same period a year ago, according to a press release by British Airways.

Sir Colin Marshall, the Chairman, said: "The outlook for the airline industry in general and for British Airways remains encouraging. This will be another record year for the industry. With our current and proposed alliance partnership and our plans to deliver step change improvements in business efficiency, we are well placed to provide continuing profitable growth for our shareholders and employees."

Profit after tax in the first quarter was £115 million, equivalent to earnings of 11.9 pence a share, up 13.3 percent on the 10.5 pence a year ago.

Group turnover for the three months increased by 10.5 percent, to £2.103 million. Growth in operating profit, up by only £1 million to £195 million, was held back by a £23 million increase in fuel costs. Without this, operating profit would have combined 12 percent, reflecting strong growth in passenger revenue.

A total of 8.35 million passengers were carried, up fractionally over a year ago, but with the average passenger flying further, scheduled revenue passenger kilometers on mainline services rose 3.7 percent. Cargo carrying rose by 9.4 percent, in terms of cargo ton kilometers.

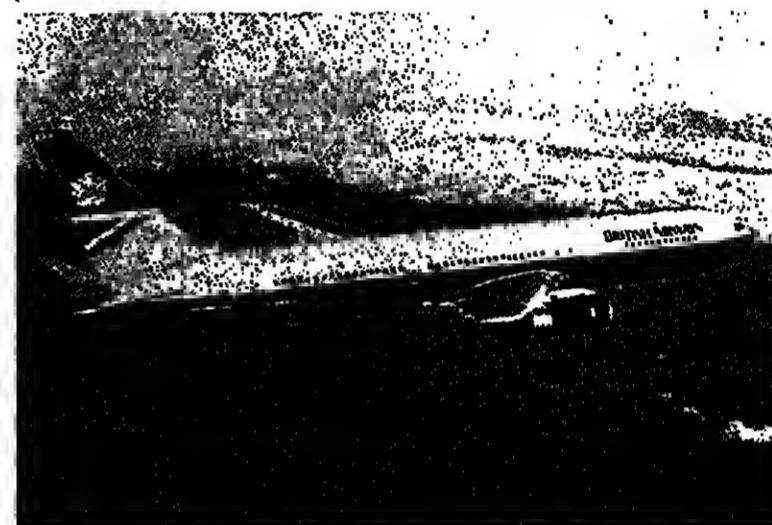
Net borrowing fell £209 million, to £3,496 million, giving a net debt to total capital ratio of 56.4 percent, a three point improvement since March 31.

Net interest costs were down £12 million, a 19 percent fall, mainly as a result of lower interest rates.

Incremental contributions from U.S. Air, Quantas, Deutsche BA, TAT and the network of franchise operators doubled to almost £50 million, reflecting improved traffic feed and reduced losses from TAT in particular.

British Airways confirmed today its decision to exercise its option to purchase the remaining 50.1 percent of the share capital of its French partner TAT European Airlines.

British Airways acquired 49.9 percent of TAT in January 1993 with an agreement to purchase the



balance by April 1, 1997.

Bob Ayling, British Airways' Chief Executive, said: "French law now allows us to own 100 percent of TAT. Accordingly we are acquiring the remaining shares in the airline as originally agreed."

"We intend now to take further steps to improve TAT's profitability and prepare the airline for the changes that are taking place in the French aviation market."

"We wish to express gratitude to Michel and Rodolphe Marchais

MPs Call for More Kuwaitis in Oil Sector

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - MPs

criticized the government-run oil sector on Saturday for not employing enough Kuwaitis, in a parliamentary debate on the finances of the state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC).

"Why do we want foreign workers? Kuwaitis are ready to work in any job, especially in the oil sector," said MP Khalid Demether Al-Enezi, during the debate in the national assembly, or parliament.

"Today we have a problem of unemployment," said Abdullah al-Hajiri, another tribal MP, adding that the KPC's aim to have Kuwaitis make up 70 percent of its workforce by 2000 was "not good enough."

"We have to nationalize that sector (with Kuwaiti workers) and make it 100 percent Kuwaiti," he argued.

MPs also urged KPC to rid itself of loss-making subsidiaries, despite the fact that KPC reported record consolidated profits in fiscal 1994-1995 of \$11 million dollars (\$2.7 billion).

The MPs approved KPC's 1994-1995 financial statement, the latest year for which accounts

have been released, and also approved the budget for the financial year 1996-1997, which began on July 1.

Final accounts for 1995-1996, which ended on June 30, have yet to be released.

Record profits in 1994-1995 were the result of total revenues of 4.235 billion dinars (\$14.2 billion), while total expenses were 3.424 billion dinars (\$11.5 billion).

The budget for the financial year 1996-1997 forecasts profits of \$71 million dinars (\$1.9 billion), almost 30 percent higher than the forecast for 1995-1996, but less than actual profits in 1994-1995.

This is based on a projected four percent growth in revenues during 1996-1997 to 3.860 billion dinars (\$12.9 billion), while expenses are expected to increase by less than one percent in the year to 3.289 billion dinars (\$11 billion).

KPC is the holding company for all Kuwait's oil activities, which mainly involve the production, refining and distribution related to Kuwait's output of two million barrels of oil a day.

Economic Digest

TOKYO - Japan's jobless rate edged lower in July to 3.4 percent from 3.5 percent in June, while the overall number of jobless fell to 2.21 million people, the lowest level so far in 1996.

While the employment outlook continues to look somewhat bleak, there are some bright signs to the latest data, including a trend toward fewer people who left the workplace involuntarily the management and coordination agency said Friday.

Separately, the labor ministry reported that the ratio of job offers to job seekers, an indicator of demand for labor, nudged slightly higher to 11.72 in July compared with 11.71 in June. The ratio shows that there were only 72 jobs being offered for every 100 workers seeking employment in July.

An increase in the workforce in July to 65.89 million workers - up 470,000 from year-earlier levels - and marking the second straight year-on-year rise - reflects a mild upturn in the economy, an agency official said.

SYDNEY - Bridgestone Australia Ltd. wants to form a joint venture with Japanese automotive components manufacturer Toyoda Gosei Co. Ltd.

NEW DELHI - The department of telecommunications has decided to maintain a 49 percent cap on foreign equity in Indian telecom companies, a newspaper reported Friday.

The decision is a reversal of a department ruling that would have allowed foreign investors a greater ownership share in phone services and other telecommunications related industries, the English-language daily *Business Standard* reported.

The decision bars the use of foreign funds collected through holding companies.

"Effective Indian equity in an operating company becomes less than 51 percent if the Indian promoter raises money to finance this 51 percent through joint ventures with foreign companies," a department of telecommunications statement said.

BEIJING - Beijing has tightened its control over China's two securities exchanges by placing the markets' regulatory agency under control of the cabinet, officials and reports said Friday.

The stock exchange management law is intended to clear up murky areas of market management. It clearly delineates responsibilities of supervision, stock registration, settlement and punishment, the state-run *China Securities News* reported.

Under the law, the state council's securities policy committee will oversee the China securities regulatory commission. The commission in turn supervises the country's young and often untried secondary stock, futures and bond markets in Shanghai and the southeastern city of Shenzhen.

Zhang Yundong, deputy chief of the Shenzhen Securities Exchange Commission, said the law replaces and revises an earlier temporary measure.

Although the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges were set up at the end of 1990, China still lacks a comprehensive set of laws to govern them.

Domestic investors continue to build extensive positions in the B-share markets, which are supposed to be for foreigners.

Today in History

1877 - Satsuma rebellion is suppressed in Japan.

1898 - British forces under Horatio Kitchener defeat dervishes at Omdurman, Khartoum, Sudan.

1926 - Italy's treaty with Yemen begins Italian attempt to dominate east coast of Red Sea.

1945 - Independent Vietnam Republic is proclaimed by Ho Chi Minh, who becomes president.

1947 - American republics sign treaty of mutual assistance at Rio de Janeiro.

1949 - United Nations commission warns of danger of civil war in Korea.

1942 - Soviet Union agrees to send arms to Cuba.

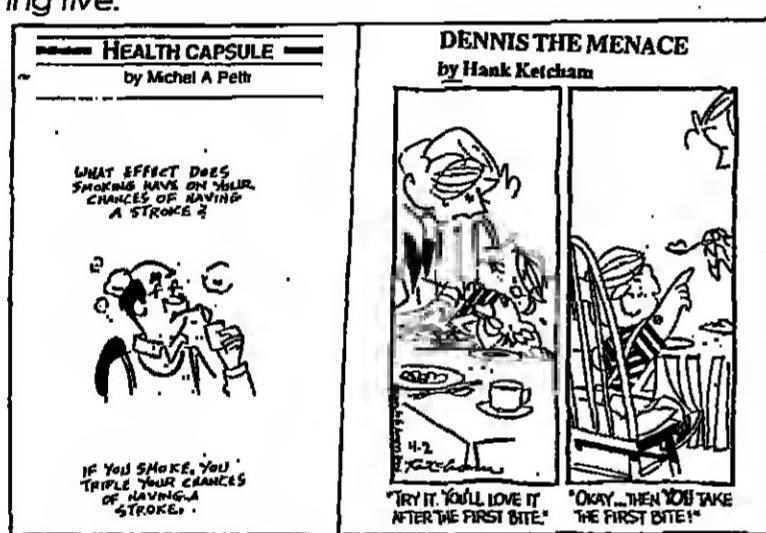
Western Iran is shattered by earthquake, and 200 towns and villages are reported destroyed.

1986 - Death toll confirmed at 79, with 319 others reported missing in sinking of Soviet passenger liner in Black Sea.

1989 - Riot police arrest more than 400 anti-apartheid protesters in downtown Cape Town, South Africa.

1990 - Saudi defense minister says his country cannot be used at jumping-off point for attack on Iraq.

1991 - Police in Soviet Republic of Georgia open fire on several thousand protesters, wounding five.



Caught Early, Hodgkin's Disease Can Be Cured

By Dr. Allan Bruckheim

QUESTION: Our adorable niece, age 17, has just been diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease. While she waits for more information from her doctor, we are on pins and needles and hope you could fill us in on this dreadful disease, and what can be expected as she goes through treatment. I know you have many questions but this is an urgent request. Would you please answer soon? We hope you will help us.

ANSWER: No one knows just where this disease of the lymph system comes from. It strikes most frequently at people age 15 to 34 and over 60. It is classified as a lymphoma, or cancer of the lymphatic system. Though there are four types of this disease, derived from the microscopic appearance of the cells, they all have a similar course and outcome.

The good news is that, when diagnosed and treated at an early stage, Hodgkin's Disease, in about 90 percent of the cases, can be cured.

The first sign of the disease is often a swollen gland or node in the neck or chest. Frequently there are no other signs of the illness, although elevated temperature, itching, night sweats and weight loss can accompany it. A strange symptom, which can provide an early clue to the diagnosis, is immediate pain after drinking an alcoholic beverage in areas where the disease is located. The diagnosis of Hodgkin's is made when a biopsy of a gland is taken and the tissue examined under the microscope.

The disease, if not treated, is slowly progressive, with masses developing in various regions of the body, where they produce symptoms. When these masses develop in bones, pain may be in-

tense. As the disease progresses, physicians "stage" its progress, with Stage I representing a very limited disease, and Stage IV, widespread progression.

The success of treatment is linked to the stage of the disease, with those in Stage I being most successful. Staging is helped through diagnostic procedures such as X-rays of the chest or CT scans. Occasionally physicians will use a laparoscope to explore the insides of a patient, which also helps them stage the disease.

For early treatment, radiotherapy may be used exclusively. Irradiation of localized nodes can remove them completely in more than 95 percent of the cases; 90 percent of these patients will be disease-free 10 years after the diagnosis is made. If the disease has progressed, there are chemotherapeutic agents (anti-cancer drugs) available to continue the fight. The drugs may be used singly or in combination. Sometimes chemotherapy and radiotherapy are used together.

When the disease is difficult to treat, it requires high doses of medication to destroy the cancer cells. In such cases, a specimen of the patient's own bone marrow is taken first. Then the medications are prescribed at very high doses, high enough to even destroy the patient's blood-making tissue (the bone marrow). When all the cells have been destroyed — both the Hodgkin's tumor cells as well as the normal blood cells — the marrow biopsy is transplanted back into the patient, and normal blood can be produced once again.

Dr. Thomas Hodgkin first described this disease in 1832. It finally appears that these techniques and medications have tamed it, or nearly so, making it less dreadful.

CORNUCOPIA

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

YARIN

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EMAHR

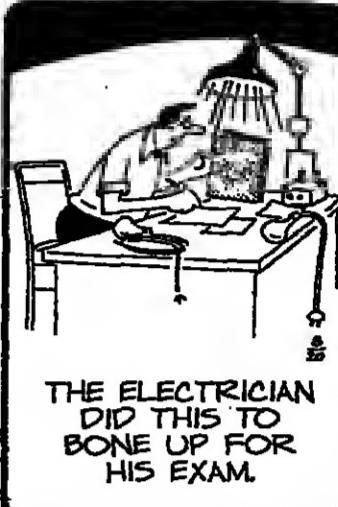
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TYGODS

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INGALD

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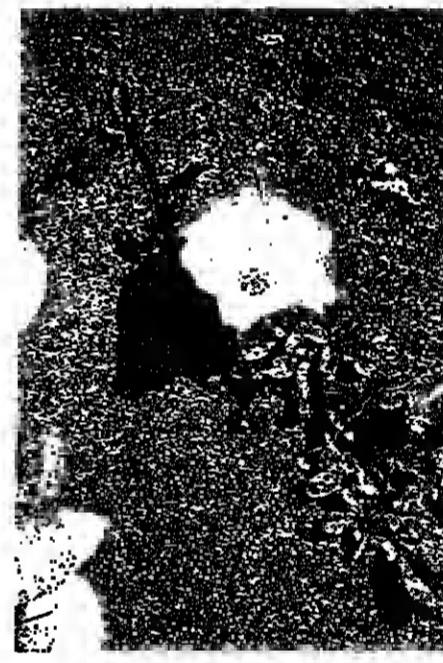
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "YARIN"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: VISOR BANDY MUFFIN DULCET
Answer: When he turned on the phony charm she was — TURNED OFF

Calystegia Silvatica (Kit.) Griseb.

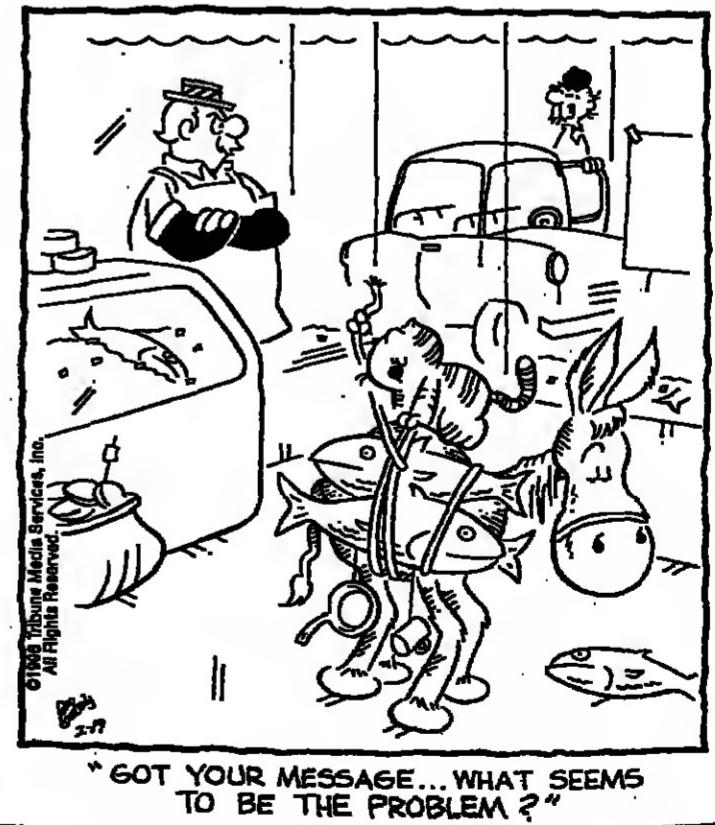


Family: Convolvulaceae

Modern Greek Names: Periplokti; Pericoclaei

Plant similar to *Convolvulus* with large flowers up to 7cm wide and large leaves cordate — arrow-shaped borne on a long petiole. It grows in the forested areas of the mountain zone. Flowers May-August. THR. - E.M. - C.M. - W.M. - EP. - THE. - C.G.R. - PEL. - CR.

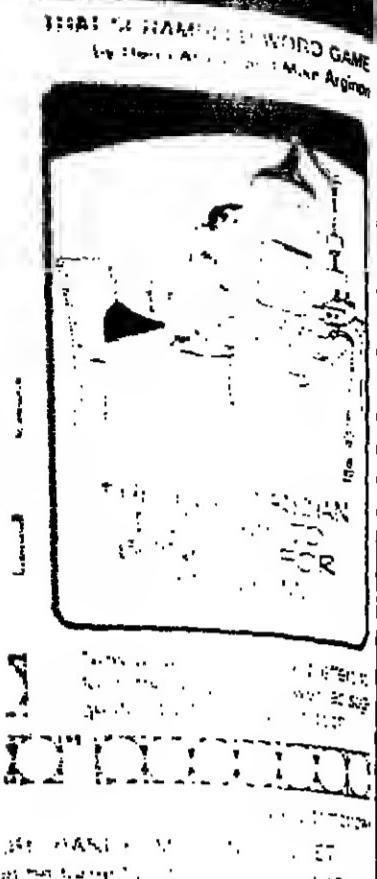
HEATHCLIFF



Those Who S...

Iran News

COPIA



Silvatica



Those Who Seek A Good Tile, Refer to Saveh Tile Co.

Introduction:

Saveh Tile Co. (STC), affiliated to the Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation, was established and registered in 1989 and commenced operation with 12 billion rials starting capital. In that year STC received agreement in principle for production of 4 million sq. meters of wall tile.

Iran China Factories Ltd., Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation and Iran National Investment Company are shareholders of Saveh Tile Co. whose factory is located in a 12-hectares area at Saveh Industrial Town and employs 380 personnel.

STC's technology and machinery has been imported from Italy and the machinery was wholly erected and commissioned by Iranian engineers and specialists, and all its raw material for the factory is supplied from domestic sources.

STC's products hit market in 1995 and was given a wide reception. Presently the Company's tiles are being exported to Kuwait, Dubai, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Bahrain.

Saveh Tile Co. which produces wall tiles in different sizes, colors and patterns, was inaugurated by Majlis Speaker, Hojjatoleslam Nateq-Nouri and Minister of Industries Nematzadeh on October 24, 1995.

Describing the method of commissioning, STC's present status and future plans to IRAN NEWS engineer Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh, the energetic managing director of

Turning to the method of commissioning of Saveh Tile Co., Belgeiszadeh added: "The factory was established with a nominal capacity of 4 million sq.

meters per annum of wall tiles and is considered as one of the most advanced and largest rapid cooking plants in the Middle East.

Erection of the machinery started in March 1994 and was completed in September of the same year and a total of 35 billion rials plus 30 million German marks was invested for the factory."

Belgeiszadeh said the technology and the machinery of the Saveh Tile Co. has been imported from Italy and the machinery were wholly erected and commissioned by Iranian engineers and experts.

Saveh Tile Co. said:

"Thanks to the support of government authorities and the dedication and efforts of the specialists and employees of Saveh Tile Co. (STC), the factory was launched in an area of 4 million sq. meters for production of wall tiles. The factory is equipped with two channels of fast double firing roller kilns and its extensive line of production has the capacity for third firing design. The company is supplying its tiles according to the latest technology and in keeping with international standards to domestic and foreign markets."

STC was inaugurated in November 1995 in the presence of Majlis Speaker, Minister of Industries, head of Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation and Friday prayer leader of Saveh.

"In order to supply the needs of other factories which are using tunnel kilns or traditional kilns, besides manufacturing wall tiles, Saveh Tile Company has commissioned a refractory brick plant with 3,000 tons per annum capacity to reduce import of refractory bricks and lessen the foreign exchange spending of such factories. The products of this new plant is used by Irania Tile Company, Hafez tile factory and other related factories." Belgeiszadeh added.

Asked about the technology of the factory, Belgeiszadeh said: "Saveh Tile Company's equipment and machinery have been purchased from the Italian SACMI Company which has 120 years experience in manufacture of tiles and our technology has been devised by the experts of that company."

He said the raw material of Saveh Tile Co. is supplied by domestic mines which contributes to the added value of the tiles.

Belgeiszadeh who is one of the experienced executives in the country added: "We are employing the highest production capacity compared to other companies which are using advanced technology and all the stages of production

in the packaging section are fully automatic. As a result, our planning and control methods corresponds with the modern technology. We have made extensive research and done much work

urements.

Sale and export:

Belgeiszadeh says the main objective of Saveh Tile Co. is to export its products and believes that without vigorous presence

and amendments in the designs in order to adapt them to the customer's taste and choice. After that we examine and compare the design in a Tile Design Committee which is composed of repre-



Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh

in international markets and proper presentation of a company products, no export can be made. For this reason, he says, Saveh Tile Co. has launched an extensive campaign to penetrate international markets and to examine and discover different market opportunities but the result of such studies have not yet been revealed in the company's performance.

"For example in the design section we collect and

sentatives of all related departments. Such measures have been widely applauded and accepted by the customers of Saveh Tile Co. Nevertheless, we have not sufficed with this attempt and encouraged by our good customers we have added to our efforts for enhancement of the quality, beauty, attractiveness and elegance of our tiles and have so far been successful in our goals," says hopeful Belgeiszadeh.

Belgeiszadeh says training of the company personnel and updating their information and technology is a basic program of Saveh Tile Company.

The energetic chief executive of Saveh Tile Company believes that the modern technology in the world seeks well informed and experienced people and an eagerness for learning and research.

"For this very reason all our technicians who are working on the production line have secondary school diploma and our supervisors, foremen and management have higher education and proficiency and this has created an appropriate atmosphere for us to give them further training and refresher courses," says Belgeiszadeh and adds: "Therefore we have devised

See Page 8



Mr. Koomars Tahooni Director of Public Relations (Center)

starting from raw material section, production lines, sorting section and ending

lar and continued training of factory's personnel with an eye to qualification meas-

examine Iranian and foreign patterns and designs and make necessary changes

SAVEH TILE CO.

and Technology, Pioneer in Iran's Tile Industry

cerpt of an interview with Belgeiszadeh who continuously maintains that one should prove his words in action and refrain from giving false promises or uttering

the school and children are the main pillars of sports in a nation. No country can claim to be a sports promoter unless it provides necessary sports facilities in its schools for its children and ensure that sport is correctly followed at all the stages of education.

After the student completes his secondary schooling, he enters the university and from university he steps into a factory or an office.

Sports greatly elevates the spirits and morals of the factory personnel.

A



worker
who
makes
physical
exercise is much
more robust,

cheerful and his output is far better than another worker who does not engage in sports. Besides by physical exercise a worker is not deviated from correct morals or turn to a drug addit. In short if sport is considered an important element that can serve mankind, and this element is seriously accepted and encouraged by the community, our youth and our aged will achieve better physical and moral strength and well being.

Sports is a factor that prevents pessimism and depression and it is an instrument that prevents the worker from evading his duties.

Q. You speak about the benefits of sports and the need for expansion of sports?

A. First of all I must tell you that I personally believe that sport must commence from the schools and be followed and perpetuated in factories. The fact is that a body of a child is built in

in the community. What action you have taken so far to promote sports in Saveh Tile Company?

A. Saveh Tile Company (STC) is a infant factory which has newly taken wing and the majority of our employees are between 19 to 20 years age group. With such a youthful manpower at hand it is imperative for an administrator to promote the healthy practice of physical exercise and sports. Meanwhile I must tell you that wherever I have worked I have paid special attention to sport and have invested a lot on sport. We have a 15,000 q. m. sports complex lying beside Saveh Tile Factory and intend to add another 3,000 square meters of land to that complex.

To build a volleyball yard, a football ground and tennis courts are projects that

are at the top of our agenda and gradually as we advance we will create other fields of sports.

We have organized the Saadi Brick Sports Committee as one of the main departments of the factory and myself am a member of that committee. We have formed football, wrestling and tennis teams and have joined in wrestling and tennis and table tennis labor competitions in Saveh and have won the first award in table tennis and wrestling games in that city. This is the beginning of our sport ambitions and we are determined to progress in that field.

Q. Do you intend to participate in labor games only and encourage your workers to be sportsmen or you wish to expand and participate in club competitions and other general competitions on the national level and contribute to the nation's sport?

A. I think sports club associations and team formation in the country and activities in labor sector complement one another. For this reason we are identifying our athletes so that we can actively join in football, volleyball and basket-

ball games and to present ourselves on provincial and national level in the form of club

important sports competitions on the national level is a logical step towards that direction. On the other hand a factory with a large capital decides to

**Saveh Tile Co.
intends to actively
join sports.**

owner.
Q. What
is your
objective by
owning a sports
club or organizing
club teams in non-
labor organizations.
Do you want to
join nation-
wide games
or

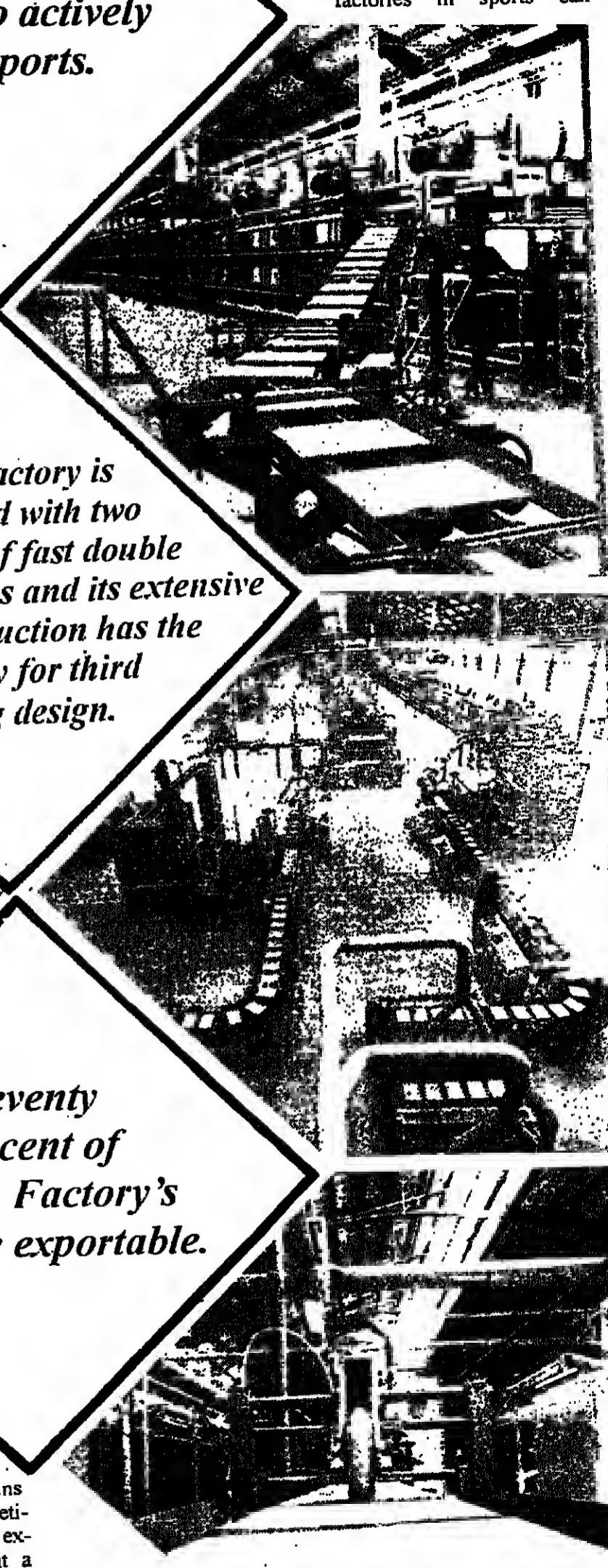
**The factory is
equipped with two
channels of fast double
firing roller kilns and its extensive
line of production has the
capacity for third
firing design.**

provincial
games? Do
you intend to
advertise Saveh
Company's tiles by
joining sports activi-
ties or you only wish to
promote sports in the
country?

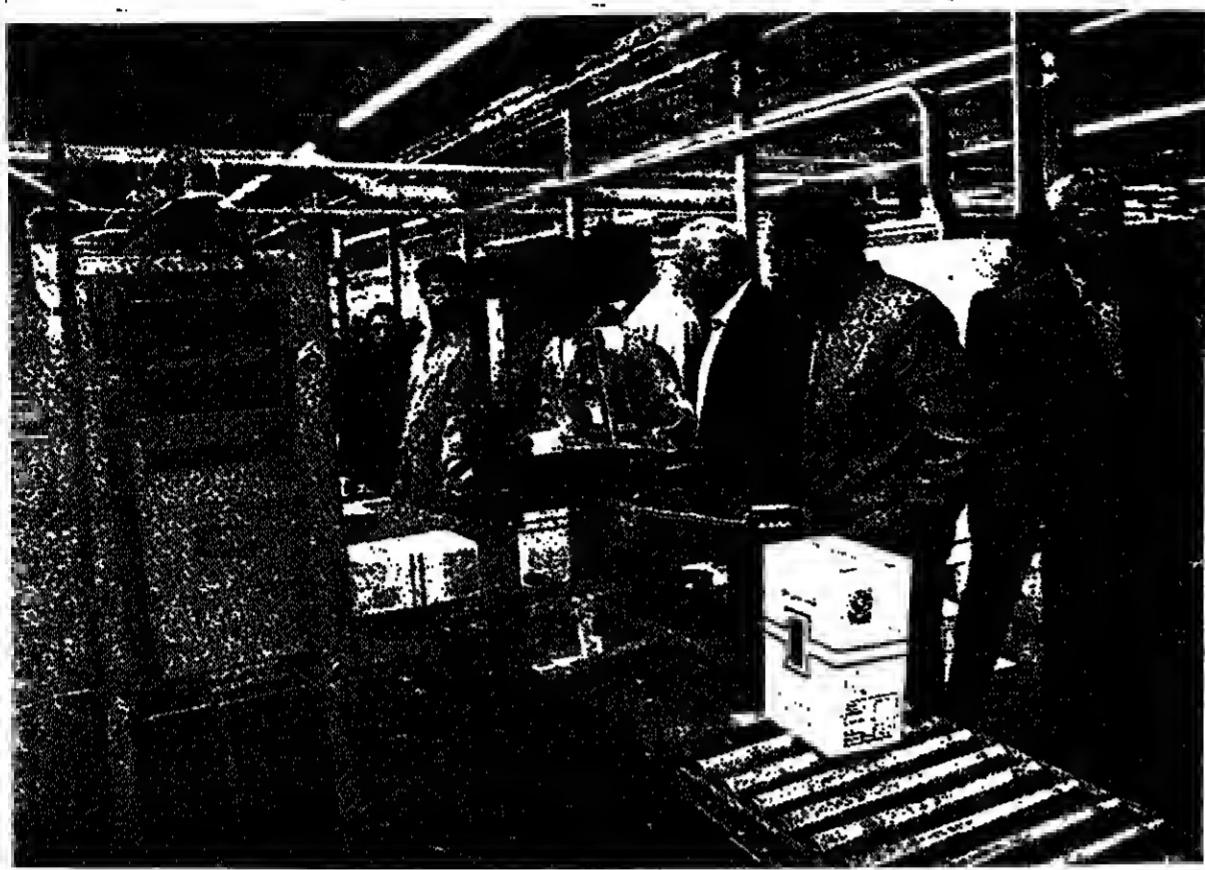
A. I must
frankly
confess
that I
have

**Seventy
percent of
Saveh Factory's
tiles are exportable.**

both
these ob-
jectives in
mind. Firstly,
If a strong sports
team affiliated to a
large factory in the
country emerges and gains
fame in national competitions,
it will represent an ex-
tensive advertisement at a
reasonable cost. You know
that the cost of advertise-
ment is very high and in order
to succeed in marketing
a company must invest a
large sum of its capital for
advertisement. Presence in
build
and prom-
ote sports
which by itself
con-
tributes to
physical education
and promotion of that



Those Who Seek A Good Tile, Refer to Saveh Tile Co.



greatly advance our sports. Besides that I must add that organizing and keeping sports clubs and sports teams by factories can have positive impact in the quality of their products and expansion of works.

When the name of a factory's team is mentioned, a great affinity is created be-

tween the workers and that team which results in a united effort for betterment of the factory's commodities trade mark. Normally the workers of a factory love their team and are very zealous that they should win. By creating such a feeling and incentive their unity and solidarity is inten-

sified and they exhibit a greater zeal for improvement and are eager to gain a good name for the factory that they work. Meanwhile we are aware that such a solidarity will lead to team growth of a factory.

Q. Have you actually taken a step to introduce a team and send it to sports competitions?

A. We have made planning in this branch for the first quarter of year 1996 and although it was difficult for us to procure necessary funds, we succeeded to set aside money for sports in our overall budget and God willing we will march ac-

cording to our time schedule.

Q. Does sport merely affect the labor and staff in a factory? What is the role of management in that connection?

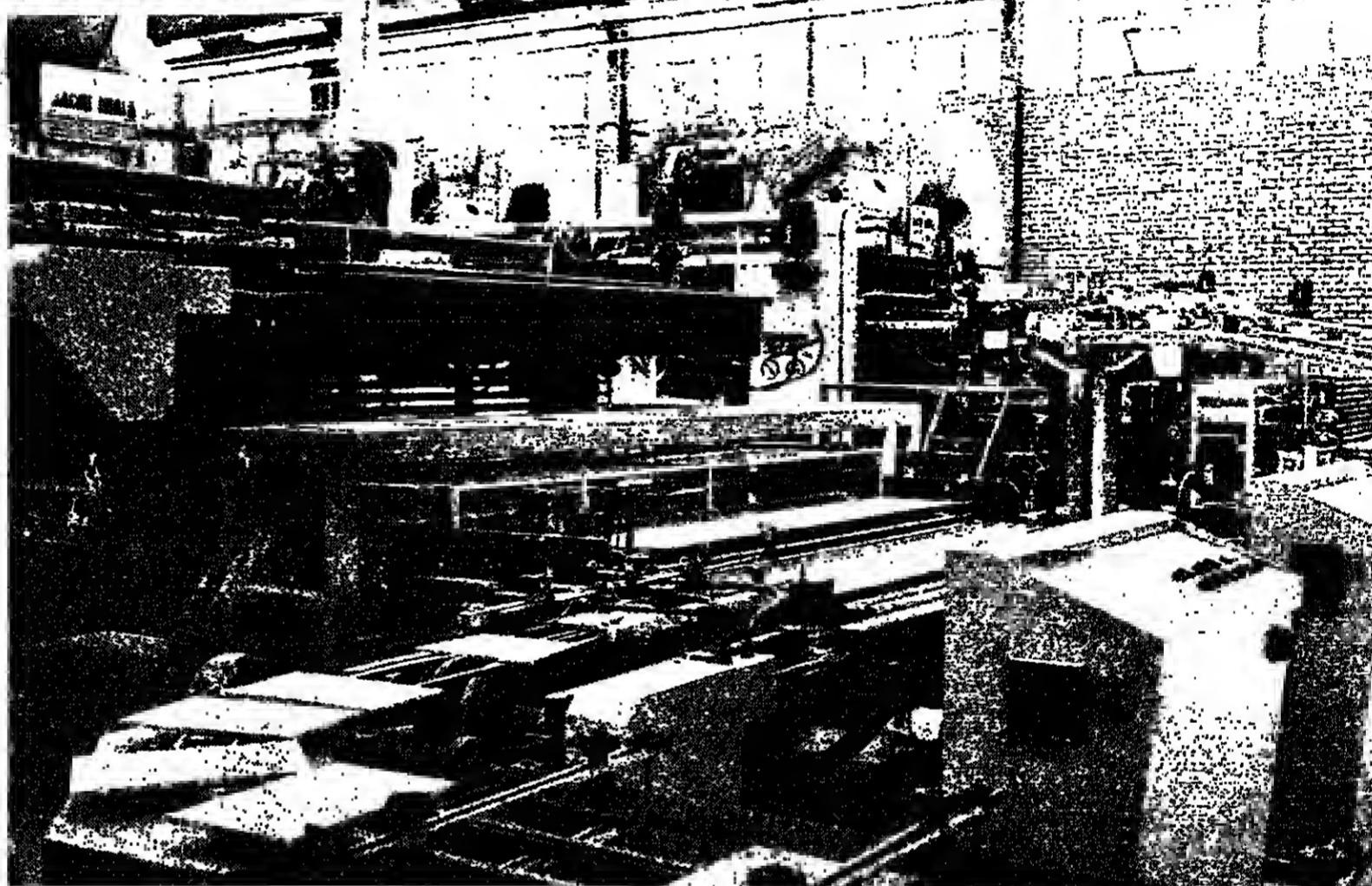
A. When factory management introduces sports into the plant, one way or other they become involved in sports activities and somehow turn a sportsman and sports fan and become involved and interested in competitions. Healthy and constructive competition in sports may add new blood and vigor to the sports activities and will develop sports in a country.

Belgeiszadeh managing

director of Saveh Tile Company added that making sports as a necessity that should be launched by factories. Besides giving fitness and health to the personnel of a factory early morning exercise will each

highlight the significance of sports and physical education and the need to attend to body building and promotion of health.

"Every good and positive steps to promote sport in factories might begin with early morning exercise and every sports activity in a factory depends upon propagation and continuation of this early morning exercise," Belgeiszadeh emphasized.



According to Mahmoud Belgeiszadeh, the following milestones were achieved by Saveh Tile Company since November 1995:

* Saveh Tile Company which is equipped with the most advanced and modern equipment and machinery was inaugurated by Majlis Speaker Naeq-Nouri in November 1995.

* STC has a nominal capacity of 4 million cu. meters of wall tile in different sizes and patterns.

* 70 percent of STC's tiles are exportable to foreign countries.

* All the raw material fed to the factory's production line, is produced locally.

* With the exception of a limited number of spare parts, Saveh Tile Co. is not depended on foreign exchange.

* Market for tile is limited and there is close rivalry between tile manufacturers.

* There are 28 tile manufacturers all over the

country which makes marketing difficult.

* In order to obtain a fair share of the market, Saveh Tile Co. is always thinking to upgrade the quality of its tiles so that it can export them and earn foreign exchange for the nation.

* Should we operate with full capacity, by 1997 we can export approximately 1 m sq. meter of tile.

* From the beginning STC's tiles have shown their good quality and have been praised by the public, and those who seek better tiles, refer to Saveh Tile Co.

* Factory Location: Saveh Industrial Town.
Factory area: 12 hectares.

No. of employees: 380 persons.

Saveh Tile Co. is affiliated to Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation.

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Tehran
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Fax: 8730105

SAVEH TILE CO.

Saveh Tile Co.

الله اعلم

Chechnya Peace Deal Viable Despite Flaws

MOSCOW (AFP) - The peace accord signed by Russian National Security Chief Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel leaders leaves Chechnya's political status unclear, but it provides a real basis for ending the war, analysts said Saturday.

The postponement of a decision on Chechnya's status until December 31, 2001 represented a compromise by both sides on the issue at the heart of the 20-month conflict.

Lebed ruled out military force as an option, announcing that "we are stopping the war and we are withdrawing the (Russian) army."

Both sides agreed that legislation would be drawn up for Chechnya in the next five years to "preserve human rights, the right of people to self-determination and to enable the people to make their will known."

Although it was not clear who would draft the legislation, or whether there would be a referendum on independence, the joint statement signaled a softening of Moscow's position.

Previously Moscow had ruled out any compromise with the rebels over their demand for independence.

The Chechen separatists, who had previously insisted on immediate and full independence, agreed Saturday to postpone the issue for five years; by which time Lebed might have become the next Russian president.

The rebels' military success in Grozny, most of which they seized in a surprise offensive on August 6, forced the Russians to pull thousands of troops out of the city and the southern mountains. In what Chechens and Russian commentators saw as a defeat for the federal forces.

Rebel Vice President Said-Khassat Abumuslimov said the accord signed by Lebed and rebel military commander Aslan Maskhadov Saturday did not describe Chechnya as part of Russia, and "for us there is no change, Chechnya remains independent."

Secret Israel-PA Talks Set to Yield Major Peace Push

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Weeks of secret talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority are on the verge of yielding a series of "understandings" that will give a major push to the stalled peace process, the Jerusalem Post reported Sunday.

The English-language newspaper quoted a senior Israeli official as saying the talks "are in the advanced stages of obtaining understandings which will break the deadlock and give the peace process a real push."

The secret meetings began on August 13 and have been held in Tel Aviv at the home of U.N. peace coordinator Terje Larsen and his wife, Norwegian diplomat Mona Juul, the newspaper reported.

The Norwegian couple played a central role in the 1993 talks in Oslo which led to mutual recognition of Israel and Yasser Arafat's PLO and launched the Palestinian autonomy process.

The Jerusalem Post said the talks were led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's top foreign policy adviser, Dore Gold, and Arafat's senior Deputy Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen.

The rebels have been fighting for independence since Russia poured thousands of troops into Chechnya in December 1994, triggering a war which has cost more than 40,000 lives, mostly civilians.

Dmitry Trenin, a political analyst at the Carnegie Endowment in Moscow, said the accord was "a framework agreement for future work, not an agreement which settles all issues," but it was "clear that a political solution has replaced violence."

Andrei Piontovsky, head of the center for strategic studies in Moscow, said demilitarization of Chechnya was "irreversible."

He said there were already signs of a chauvinist backlash in Russia, "but most ordinary people will be glad that the war has ended."

The Chechen rebels found that Lebed, a consistent critic of Russia's military intervention in the mainly Muslim North Caucasus Republic, was a partner they could deal with.

Maskhadov praised the retired Russian general, saying: "finally we found someone who wanted to end the war."

But analysts warned that Lebed still had political battles to fight in Moscow, where he has powerful enemies who still favor the military option to crush what they call the Chechen "bandit groups."

Lebed himself has demanded the dismissal of Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, who commands most of the Russian troops in Chechnya and is widely seen as hawkish.

Pro-Moscow Chechen Leader Doku Zavgayev and Oleg Lobov, Lebed's predecessor on the powerful Russian Security Council, are also prominent among his political enemies, according to Piontovsky.

"One cannot imagine a coalition government including the rebels and Zavgayev's supporters. Most of Zavgayev's followers will have to leave Chechnya, and they will fiercely oppose the accord," Piontovsky said.

Yeltsin, too, has been "trying to

postpone the moment of truth," Piontovsky told AFP.

"If the conflict is resolved, people will ask: 'Why did all those soldiers have to die?' and the question will be directed at Yeltsin."

The Russian president has voiced only lukewarm backing for Lebed's peace efforts, and refused to meet him before the latest round of peace talks.

A Western diplomat commented that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and some other senior officials "want to end the war as soon as possible, but they don't want Lebed to come back a hero, otherwise he will be remembered when presidential elections are held."

Despite the vagueness about Lebed, a consistent critic of Russia's political status, Piontovsky pointed to the example of Tatarstan, a republic on the Volga with a large degree of autonomy from Moscow.

"The lesson of Tatarstan, whose constitution contradicts the Russian one, is that sometimes there can be no formal settlement of inter-ethnic problems, but one can turn a blind eye to the legal formalities."

Thousands of Muslims Gather in Columbus for Show of Unity

COLUMBUS, OHIO (AP) - Looking for a tape of Islamic rap music? Or maybe toothpaste and soap declared "Halal," permitted for use by Muslims because they contain no animal fat?

How about a video of Islamic caravans, an Islamic road map to help you locate mosques throughout the United States, an alarm clock to wake you with a tiny "Allahu Akbar?"

It's all available with much more Islamic paraphernalia, and a lot of Muslim pride, at a four-day convention where thousands of Muslims have gathered in this heartland city from all over the United States and Canada. They're taking the opportunity not only to

"Allahu Akbar!"

"When you come here and you see everybody else in the same boat, it gives you a great source of pride and recharges your batteries and lets you realize that you're not on your own," Rahman, a development assistant for the organizing Islamic Society of North America, said.

The society's 33rd convention in the United States, which began Friday, gives a snapshot of a Muslim community on the continent that Islamic leaders number at about 6 million.

Emigrants who came for higher education founded the society. Many stayed, either for opportunities available here or because of fear of persecution at home.

As they developed, the conventions grew from meager gatherings of a few hundred to those of recent years, drawing more than 10,000 Muslims a year.

One attraction of the convention is its Bazaar, where vendors sell Islamic products that make the Muslim community less dependent on U.S. markets for food, literature and other Islamic goods.

The Bazaar evokes the souks of the Middle East and Asia. The alarm clocks' chants of "Allahu Akbar," God is great, mingled with recitations from the Quran, Islam's holy book, coming from CD-Roms. War cries emanate from an animated video, "The Boy and the King," which relates a Quranic story about a boy's triumph over an infidel tyrant.

The thick smell of alcohol-free, oil-based musk perfume and spicy chicken fill the air as hawkers coax onlookers to buy their new products.

Abdul-Aziz Junejo is promoting See Page 13



KENTUCKY, FULTON, U.S.A.: U.S. President Bill Clinton greets the crowd during a stop on his campaign bus tour in Fulton, Kentucky Aug. 31.

(AFP Photo)

Incumbents Campaigning Hard on Bus Tour

MAYFIELD, KENTUCKY (AP) - President Clinton stepped up his attack on Bob Dole's proposed tax cut Saturday, saying the Republican nominee intends to give a break only to wealthy people "like me, who don't need it."

Taking his bus caravan to this hamlet deep inside tobacco country, which has never been visited

by a sitting president, Clinton conceded Dole's tax reductions are larger than his. But he said Dole's plan would pile costs onto the taxpayer through higher interest rates for mortgages, automobile loans and credit cards.

"That's true. They do offer more money," Clinton said. "They offer it to people like me, who don't need it. That would divide us and weaken our economy."

Pledging to build on the promise of the next century, Clinton and Vice President Al Gore are aggressively courting voters on Republican terrain as if they were the underdog ticket they were during their bus tour in 1992.

Clinton and Gore accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for a second term during a National Convention in Chicago this week, an event overshadowed somewhat by the resignation of a key Clinton adviser amid a sex scandal.

The democratic nominees arrived in Paducah late Friday and told well-wishers Clinton-Gore is the answer for a forward-looking society, saying Republican challenger Bob Dole's vision is steeped in a bygone era.

In his weekly radio address Sat-

Committee Decides More Work Needed, Eyes Conference in 1998

UNITED NATIONS (API) - Legal experts from around the world took an important step toward creating the first-ever permanent International Court to prosecute war crimes, genocide and other forms of aggression.

The experts agreed to try to finish preparatory work on establishing the court by April 1998 so that a conference can be convened later that year.

The International Criminal Court would try crimes against humanity when national tribunals are unavailable. Italy has offered to host the 1998 conference.

The push to establish such a court has grown following allegations of genocide in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Suspects in those crimes are now being tried in special, temporary tribunals.

The proposed tribunal would differ from the International Court of Justice in the Hague, also known

as the World Court, which decides cases between countries but does not prosecute individuals.

Government legal experts completed three weeks of discussions Friday in a preparatory committee formed by the U.N. General Assembly last December.

A 60-page draft statute recommends that the court hear cases whenever "national jurisdictions are either ineffective or incapable of undertaking prosecutions" of war crimes, aggression, genocide and "crimes covered by the provisions of international treaties."

For years, Washington had proposed establishing a permanent international criminal court, despite U.S. efforts to establish the 1945 Nuremberg Tribunal that prosecuted crimes committed in World War II.

But President Clinton announced U.S. support for the plan last year.

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New Russian Fighter Plane Buoys Hopes for Moscow

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new Russian fighter said to be capable of amazing feats of agility goes on show next week, and with it rides Moscow's ambitions to be a major player again in the international arms market.

The Sukhoi SU-37 is expected to be the star attraction at Britain's Farnborough Air Show September 2-8, where throngs of potential buyers will get their first look at a fighter that the Russians say will revolutionize air-to-air combat.

The secret is a technology called Thrust Vector Control. The aircraft's two powerful engines are fitted with nozzles that can be moved hydraulically, steering the multi-role fighter into improbable sharp turns and steep angles of attack.

A fighter with Thrust Vector Control can outmaneuver any other in a dog fight, according to the Russians. The SU-37 will be the only supersonic fighter in the world with the system — although Britain's subsonic Harrier jump jet pioneered it — until the U.S. F-22 is fielded in 2004. None of the new European fighters offers the capability.

"These are the new planes of the new Russia," said Ariel Cohen, an expert on the Russian military at the Heritage Foundation.

"They're breaking through the veil of secrecy that enshrinéd this

highly prestigious sector of the Russian defense industry during the Soviet era. We'll see more and more of the Russian systems," he said.

Almost as surprising as the SU-37's technology is that it may be sold abroad before the Russian military gets it.

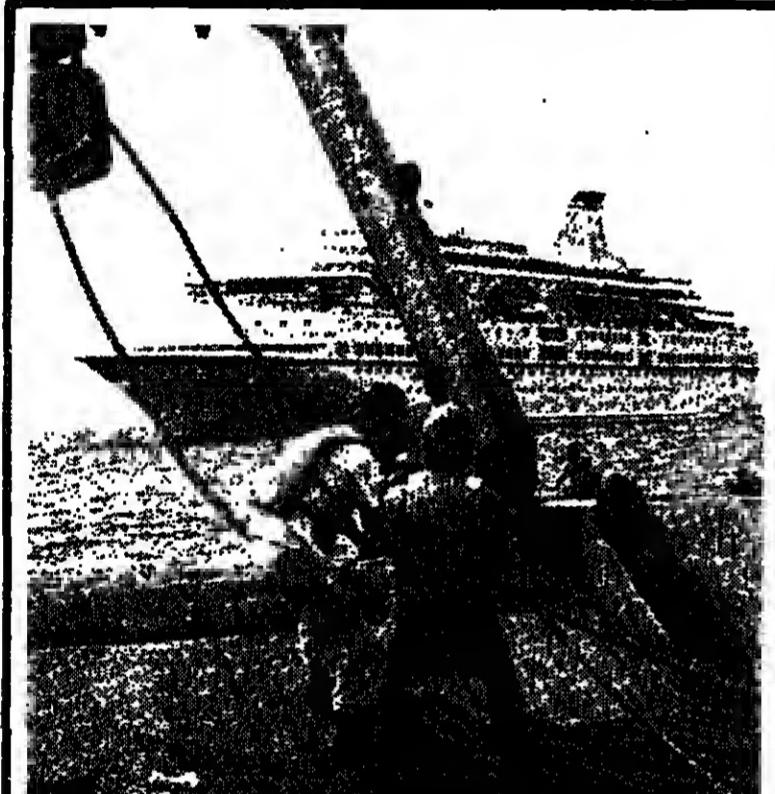
Russia has little choice, according to analysts here. To survive, its proud 80-year-old aeronautics industry — like other Russian defense industries — must sell in foreign countries and find new clients with hard currency.

In fact, the development of the SU-37 reportedly was financed by Sukhoi, with little official backing, through sales of SU-27s to Vietnam and China.

Even though the single-seat fighter has not yet been ordered by the Russian military, Sukhoi will be offering the SU-37 for export, an unusual step for the Russians but one that is not uncommon among European arms makers seeking to keep production lines open.

Aviation Week and Space Technology, the leading aeronautics weekly, reported that Sukhoi, which aims to become one of the top three exporters of combat aircraft in the world, developed the fighter with the Asian market in mind.

Price should be an added incentive. The Russians are known for



NORTH ATLANTIC: Crew members aboard a salvage ship make an ill-fated attempt to pull up a section of the hull of the Titanic late Aug. 29. The ropes snapped early Aug. 30 plunging the 21-ton section of the ship 13,200 feet to the ocean bottom. Mandatory Credit: RMS Titanic/Discovery Channel Online AFP Photo

(AFP Photo)

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selling military hardware at prices well below those of comparable Western systems.

There are some signs Russia's marketing efforts are paying off. It landed \$6 billion in weapons contracts with developing countries last year, overtaking the United States and France for the first time since the end of the Cold War.

Sales to China, a one-time ideological rival, to India, a longtime client, and to Iran accounted for the surge, say U.S. experts, who are skeptical that the Russians can sustain the lead.

"They sold some Mig-29s to Malaysia and armored personnel carriers to the UAE, but by and large it tends to be to those countries that nobody else would sell to," said Joel Johnson, international vice president for the Washington-based Aerospace Industries Association.

"You have not seen major inroads in countries that can pay cash and are acceptable to other countries," he said.

China, which has bought 50 SU-27s and a production license, will continue to be a fertile market as Beijing modernizes its antiquated air force.

But it's a "Faustian bargain," said Richard Grimmett, who documented the surge in Russian arms sales for the U.S. Congress.

As former Soviet clients, China is a good match for Russian weapon systems, he said. But Russian licensing agreements may make Beijing a competitor in the Asian arms market. And as a one-time adversary of Russia with a long common border, China is far from the ideal client.

"I think that the Russians by selling modern, sophisticated and lethal weapons or the technology to produce them to China are selling the rope with which the Chinese can hang them," said Cohen. "The Russians had better wake up and smell the vodka."

Reports of "local protectionism" have become so frequent, the paper said, that for the first time the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee has set up a group specifically to tackle the problem.

Apart from the obligatory "strengthening of ideological and political work," local authorities have been instructed to come down hard on all instances of corruption and punish "without mercy" all those involved.

The Health Ministry warned this week that dust levels in central Bangkok — mostly from massive, uncovered building sites — are more than double the World Health Organization standards.

According to the study, cited in Bangkok newspapers recently, dust levels varied between 163 and 267 micrograms per cubic meter. The WHO maximum is 100.

Bangkok officials recently launched a crackdown on the dust-swirled building sites, issuing fines for contractors who fail

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China Is to Step up Punishment of String-Pulling Officials

BEIJING (AFP) - China is to step up punishment of officials who shield corrupt friends from prosecution by pulling strings with judicial authorities, or by building "a wall of silence" around the crimes, the Legal Daily said earlier.

"Some leading cadres instruct judges to be lenient with people they are connected to or they may try to protect the person by denying access to any incriminating information," it said.

One of the most frequently reported types of corruption in China is that of the local official bribed to close an eye to commercial fraud with offers of a slice of company profits, or perhaps a gleaming new car freshly smuggled in from Hong Kong, it said.

"If any large company in a province is threatened with an investigation then all the officials who have a finger in the pie often create a 'wall of silence' and together pull strings so the case is dropped," the paper said.

In other instances, corrupt judicial organs acquit people who are guilty, or falsely say they have frozen the accounts of a company found to have embezzled public funds, it added.

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Monopoly the Answer to British Olympic Woe

LONDON (AFP) - Britain could boost her gold medal count at the Sydney Games in 2000 if the board game Monopoly was made an Olympic sport.

That is the claim of Conservative politician Spencer Batiste who proposed his ingenious solution to the country's decline as an athletic superpower at the end of the British Monopoly championships recently.

Britain's dismal performance at the Atlanta Games, where they won just one gold medal, has provoked a national debate about the state of the country's sport.

But after watching the excitement of the contest unfold in a hushed House of Commons, Batiste said Monopoly could provide just the boost British sport needs.

Batiste, who presented the winner Mike Grabsky with his trophy, said: "I can't see myself playing volleyball, but I can see me emerging the Olympics as a Monopoly player, so I think it's a good idea."

"Now that they have got volleyball and synchronized swimming, I don't see why we shouldn't have Monopoly where far more skill is involved. We could even get a gold medal. It's a game that teaches you many valuable lessons in life, particularly not to trust those who offer you good deals."

Dust Pollution Exposes Bangkok to Cancer

to use tarpaulins to contain dust.

But enforcement is spotty, and the accumulation of dust along the city's roads after a decade of unchecked construction seems to defy cleaning up.

The study showed that children in areas where extensive dust particles were found risked developing respiratory problems, chest pains and lung problems.

Lung cancer is a high risk for workers exposed to dust levels over a long period, the study said. It recommended such workers wear surgical masks as a short-term solution.

Bangkok is one of the world's most-polluted cities. Levels of some air pollutants from cars are 14 times higher than international standards set by the WHO.

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